

# PAC-12 PREVIEW

# Sports Illustrated

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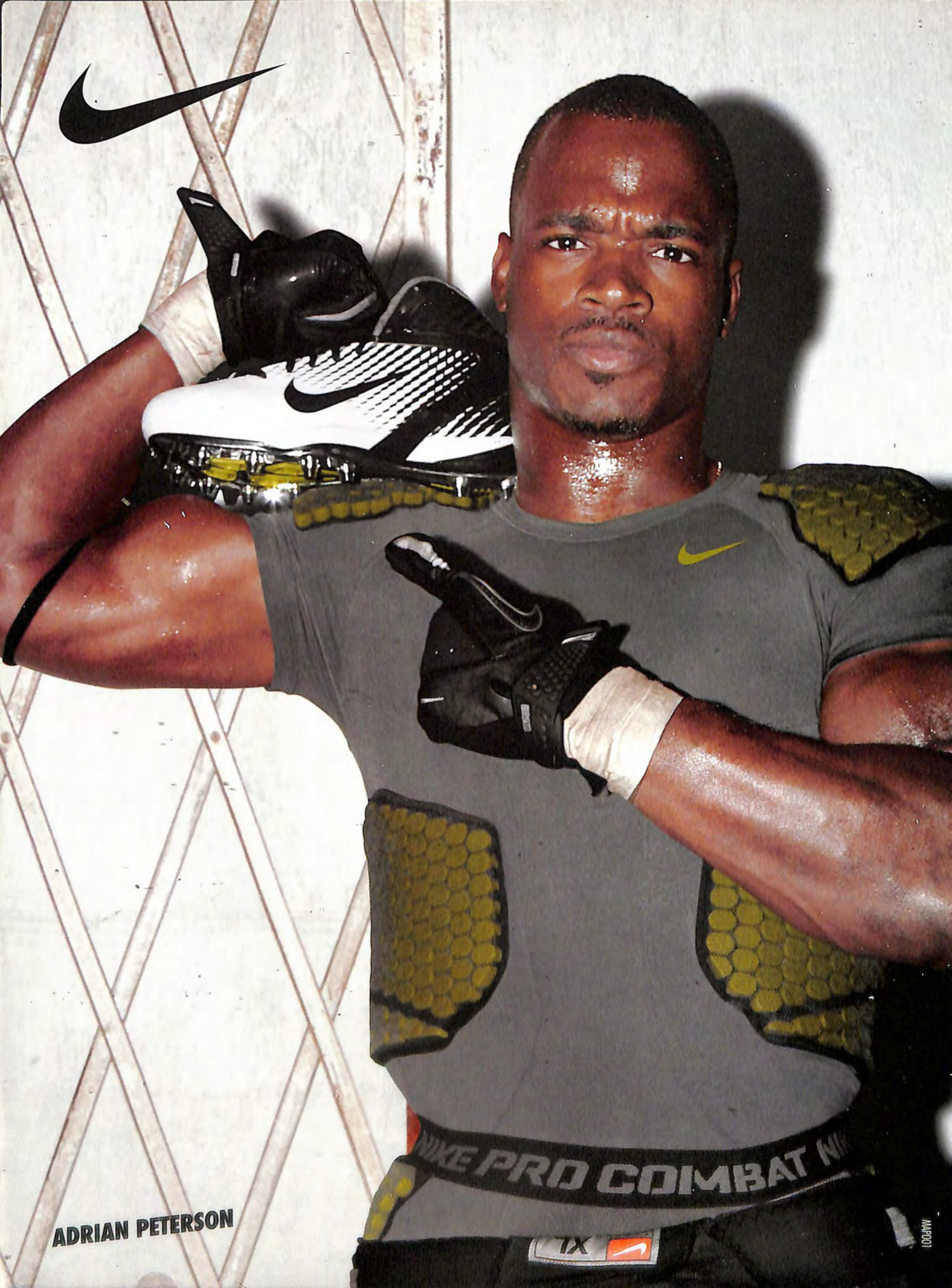


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CALORIES**

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**everything**



# Sports Illustrated

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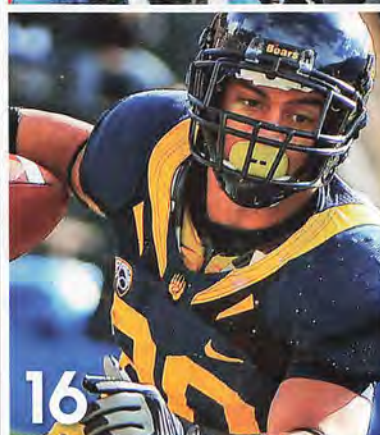
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#### AFTER THE HICHOFF

Follow the Pac-12 and all of college football with up-to-the-minute news and commentary from Stewart Mandel, Andy Staples and others at [SI.com](http://SI.com)

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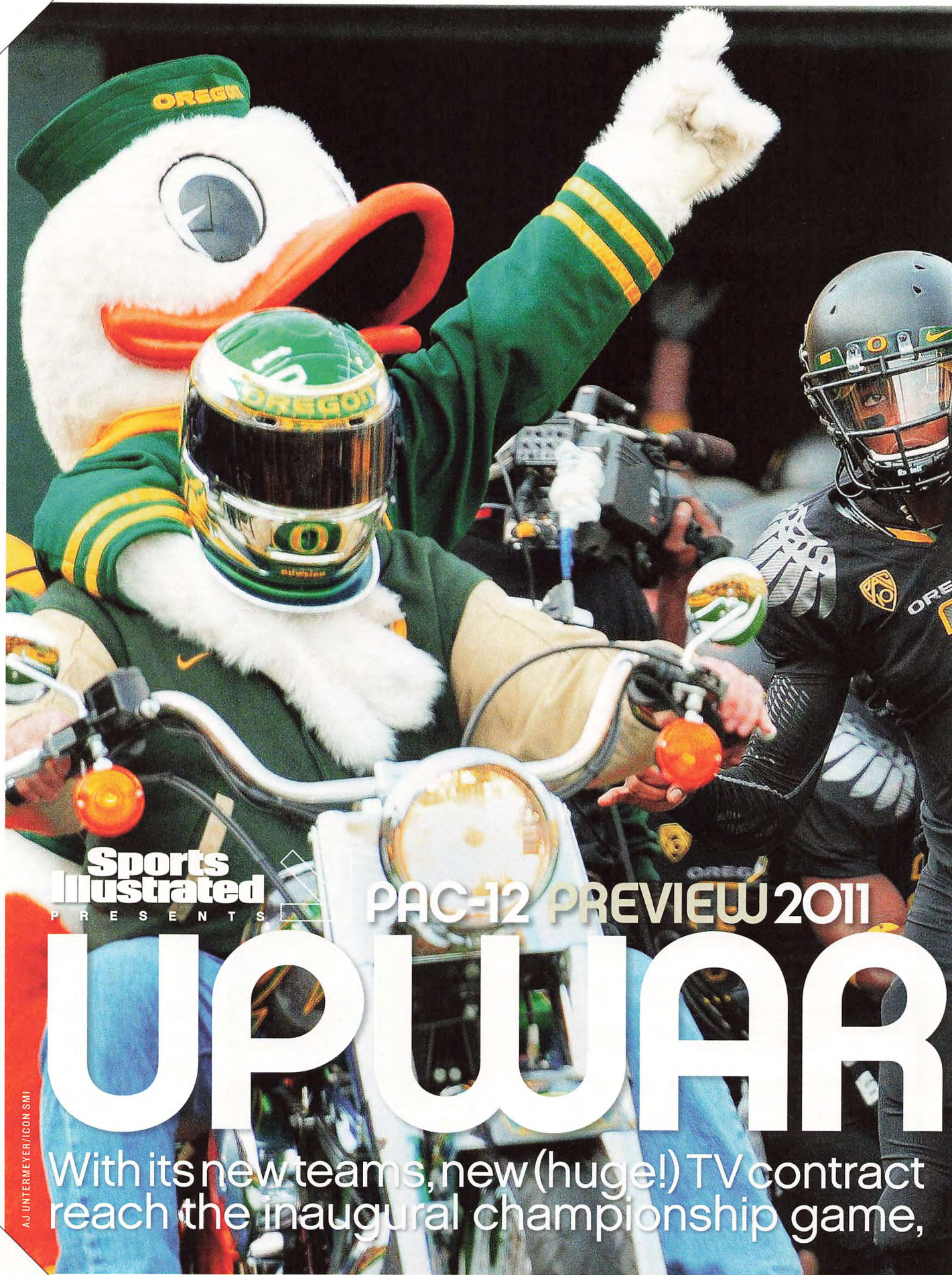
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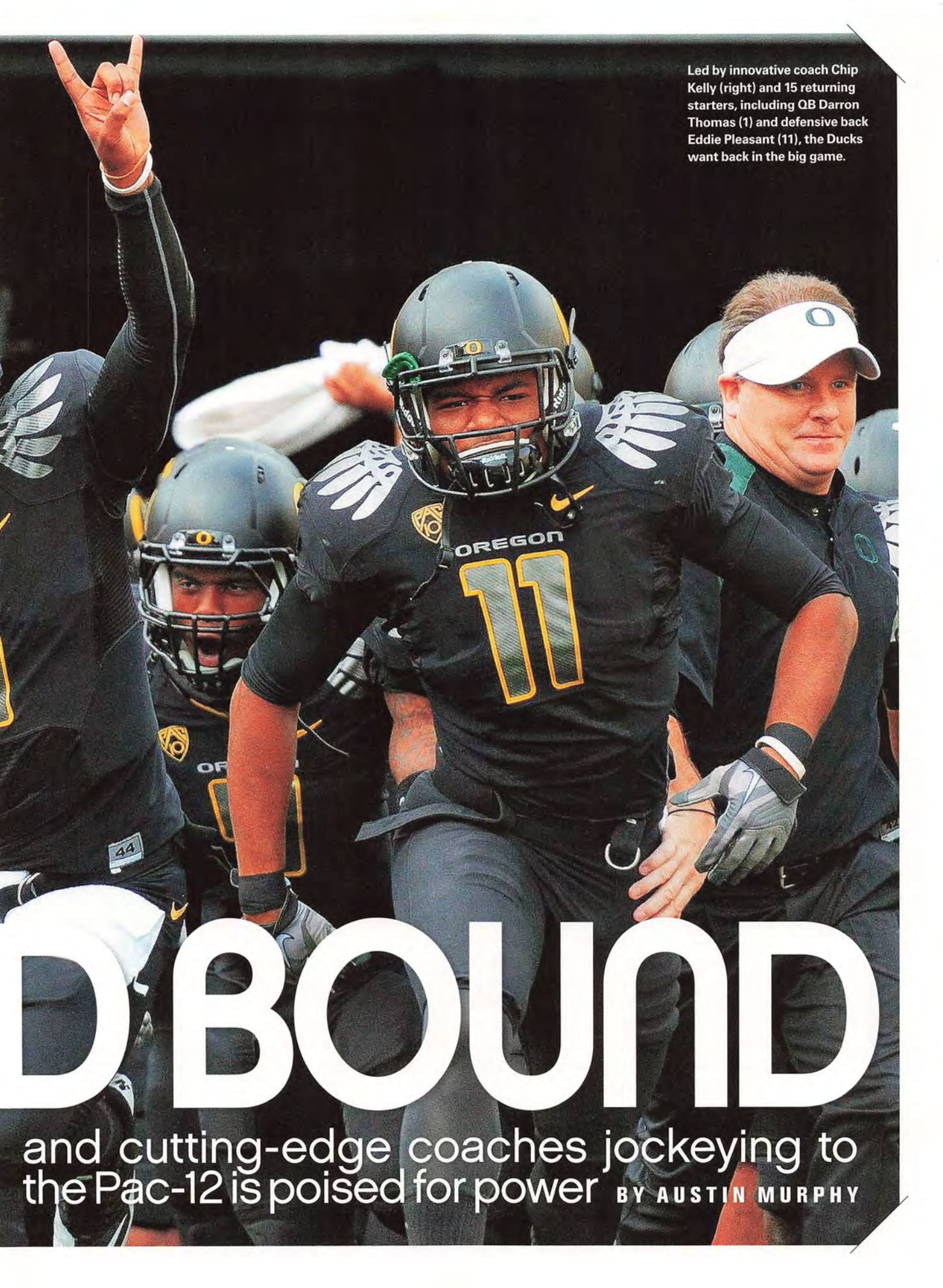
**Sports Illustrated**  
P R E S E N T S

PAC-12 PREVIEW 2011

# UPWAR

With its new teams, new (huge!) TV contract reach the inaugural championship game,



A photograph of the Oregon Ducks football team and their coach, Chip Kelly. In the center, a player wearing a black jersey with the number 11 and "OREGON" on the front is running. To his right, Coach Chip Kelly is running alongside him, wearing a white visor and a black polo shirt. To the left, another player is visible, wearing a black jersey with the number 44 and making a "rock on" hand gesture. The background is dark and out of focus.

Led by innovative coach Chip Kelly (right) and 15 returning starters, including QB Darron Thomas (1) and defensive back Eddie Pleasant (11), the Ducks want back in the big game.

# D BOUND

and cutting-edge coaches jockeying to the Pac-12 is poised for power

BY AUSTIN MURPHY



# PAC-12 PREVIEW

## 2011: POISED FOR POWER

O.K., WE CHECKED, AND THERE'S NO TRUTH TO THE RUMOR THAT THE YOUNG LADIES COMPOSING the Royal Court at the Rose Parade will henceforth compete for their spots in an *American Idol*-style talent show to be televised exclusively on the Pac-12 Network and judged by a panel including Reggie Bush and one or more of the Kardashian sisters. ¶ Of course with all the other upgrades and upheaval overtaking the conference, you can see how such a rumor might get started. Football in the Pac-12 (né Pac-10) has been consistently cutting edge and creative. There was the precursor of the West Coast offense executed by Washington QB Sonny Sixkiller in the early 1970s followed by the Bill Walsh version at Stanford late in that decade. You had California's five-lateral kickoff return against the Cardinal in '82, followed two years later by Don (the Dawg-father) James's five-linebacker Purple Reign defense at Washington. ¶ Today there is the

mind-bending, hurry-up spread offense favored by Chip Kelly at Oregon. On the field in this conference audacity and imagination have carried the day.

But for the longest time the prevailing attitude in the conference headquarters had been the opposite: staid, risk-averse, backward-looking. Before they were dead set against a playoff longtime commissioner Tom Hansen and the schools' presidents were against the BCS, because that system interfered with their ability to match the regular-season champs of the Big Ten and the Pac-10 in the Rose Bowl. As one proplayoff athletic director acidly observed

to me a few years back, "We've got an entire sport being held hostage by the Tournament of Roses Parade."

While other conferences added members and split themselves into divisions in order to host highly lucrative championship games, the tradition-worshiping grandees of this conference smugly shook their heads. They would never go down such a mercenary path. They didn't need the money *that* badly. Until they did. By the end of the last decade it had become painfully obvious that the Pac-10 was undervalued, with a second-rate TV deal that paid schools about \$9 million a year. As budget cuts sliced into their bottom lines, Hansen's bosses reconsidered their attachment to tradition, and when Hansen announced in 2008 that he would step down the next year, the conference searched for a commish who could bring it into the 21st century.

Looks like they found the right guy. Under Larry Scott, a 46-year-old Harvard graduate who'd been chairman and CEO of the Women's Tennis Association, the Pac-12 is now



Scott shook things up by bringing in Colorado's Buffaloes (and belles) and Utah's Utes (scrimmaging),

driving change rather than shrinking from it. You knew things would be different when, at the new guy's direction, the conference hired Creative Artists Agency (CAA) to help it "reposition its brand," as one trade publication put it, "to highlight the nexus" to L.A.'s entertainment industry and the technology markets of the Silicon Valley. It sounded like a stretch, but the truth is, Scott has sparked a renaissance.

In April 2010, at the BCS meetings in Scottsdale, Ariz., the new commissioner spoke of a desire to "look at everything with a fresh set of eyes." He riffed on the Pac-10's "untapped potential" and his determination to make it "as big and as successful as it can be going forward."

Who knew he was trafficking in understatement?

About six weeks later, after poaching Colorado from the Big 12, Scott came *thi-i-i-i* close to peeling off five more teams from that conference. That would have tolled the death knell for the Big 12 even as it ushered in college football's Age of the Superconference. But Texas—the linchpin



of the deal—bailed late. The deal fell through, the Big 12 survived and Scott moved to plan B, plucking Utah from the Mountain West Conference. The Pac-12 was born.

Last October the conference unveiled new, six-team divisions: the North (the Northwest schools plus Cal and Stanford) and the South (USC, UCLA, Arizona, Arizona State plus newcomers Utah and Colorado). The winners will play on Dec. 2, in the stadium of the team with the better conference record, in the first Pac-12 championship game.

Traditionalists raised objections—*first the rabbit-ear antenna on my TV stops working, and now THIS!*—but the move

and permanently. The divisional setup created problems. Each team will play a nine-game conference schedule. You play the five teams in your division—that's a no-brainer. But the cross-divisional matchups were tougher to iron out. Because every Pac-12 school recruits heavily in the Los Angeles basin, games against USC at the Coliseum and UCLA at the Rose Bowl are at a premium.

Playing in-state rivals USC and UCLA every *other* year was not enough, protested Stanford and Cal. So an exception was carved out, at the expense of the Northwest schools. Unlike the other four teams in their division, the

Bears and the Cardinal will play the Trojans and the Bruins every year, guaranteeing them an annual trip to L.A. That special treatment ensures that the Ducks, Beavers, Huskies and Cougars will only make two trips to recruiting-rich Los Angeles every four years. Meanwhile as divisionmates with USC and UCLA, newcomers Colorado and Utah will get an annual game in either the Coliseum or the Rose Bowl. This imbalance has some at the Northwest schools grumbling.

Scott also had to navigate how to divvy up the TV windfall. Under the old system part of the pot was distributed among



to flesh out the new Pac-12 South; the title-game winner will play for the roses—or more.

gave Scott the leverage that helped him negotiate the richest TV contract in the history of college athletics.

In a perfect storm for the Pac-12, Comcast came in high, offering \$225 million a year. Then the lion laid down with the lamb: Bitter rivals ESPN and Fox came together on a bid, according to *Sports Business Journal*. This resulted in a windfall for the Pac-12. Starting in 2012, ESPN and Fox will pay the conference \$3 billion over 12 years for the rights to football, men's basketball and other sports. It breaks down to \$21 million a year per Pac-12 school.

And Scott isn't *close* to being finished. One item that made negotiations slightly sticky with Fox and ESPN was the Pac-12's insistence that it sometimes retain first crack at which games to broadcast—on its own, brand-new TV network, which will be operational a year from now.

HOW DO THE CHANGES BROUGHT BY THE NEW COM-mish translate to the product on the field? Immediately

all schools. The rest was disbursed based on how many times each school appeared on TV. This resulted in the L.A. teams always getting a bigger slice of the pie. Under the new TV deal members will share equally in television revenues after agreed-upon phase-ins for Utah and Colorado.

The L.A.-based teams remain the marquee programs even as the balance of power in the conference has swung. USC is on probation; UCLA would have to improve to be mediocre. Meanwhile Arizona and Arizona State may be poised to break out, and much of the good news in the Pac-12 comes from up north. Oregon has 15 starters returning to a team that came within a field goal of the national title; powerful Stanford will be led by Heisman front-runner Andrew Luck; Washington is surging; Oregon State is always dangerous under canny coach Mike Riley.

All told, the arrows are pointing in the right direction for the Pac-12, whose leadership, finally, is as dynamic and creative as the product it puts on the field. □





# THE ALL-PAC-12 TEAM 2011

SI's selection of the brightest lights on offense, defense and special teams—and a roster of ready reserves

BY AUSTIN MURPHY



QB

ANDREW LUCH

STANFORD JUNIOR





RB

RODNEY STEWART

COLORADO SENIOR





## 2011 ALL-PAC-12 OFFENSE

Two premier Heisman possibilities lead their respective teams' charges, but the men up front should also make an impression

### QB ANDREW LUCK STANFORD JUNIOR

Heisman hopeful Luck appears to have no weaknesses. "It seems like he's been in the [NFL] for six years already," says USC assistant head coach Monte Kiffin. "He was ready to come out this year. I was pulling for him to."

### SECOND TEAM DARRON THOMAS OREGON JUNIOR

### RB LAMICHAEL JAMES OREGON JUNIOR

The nation's quickest power back rushed for 1,731 yards and 21 touchdowns last year. Another Heisman candidate, James leads Kenjon Barner, Lache Seastrunk and De'Anthony Thomas in one of the nation's best backfields.

### SECOND TEAM CHRIS POLK WASHINGTON JUNIOR

### RB RODNEY STEWART COLORADO SENIOR

The undersized (5' 6", 175 pounds) back amasses a startling amount of yardage between the tackles—1,318 on 290 carries with 10 TDs in 2010. His production is important, as the Buffs had only 15 rushing TDs all season.

### SECOND TEAM STEPFAN TAYLOR STANFORD JUNIOR

### WR JURON CRINER ARIZONA SENIOR

The swift, physical playmaker was all-conference last season (82 catches for 1,233 yards and 11 touchdowns) despite being "75 percent," by his estimate, due to nagging injuries. Now healthy, he should catch 100 balls in '11.

### SECOND TEAM ROBERT WOODS USC SOPHOMORE

### WR JERMAINE KEARSE WASHINGTON SENIOR

With 12 touchdowns in '10, Kearse became the first wideout to lead U-Dub in scoring since Mario Bailey in 1991. A streaky receiver, Kearse will seek more consistency this season working with whoever replaces Jake Locker.

### SECOND TEAM MARQUESS WILSON WASHINGTON STATE SOPHOMORE

### TE DAVID PAULSON OREGON SENIOR

A chains-mover, Paulson had 24 receptions and four TDs in 2010. His 17.4 yards per catch was the most for Ducks with more than two receptions. Although a bit slight for his position (6' 4", 241 pounds), he is a strong blocker, particularly downfield.

### SECOND TEAM JOE HALAHUNI OREGON STATE SENIOR

### OT JONATHAN MARTIN STANFORD JUNIOR

Luck isn't the only projected first-round draft pick on the Cardinal's offense. The 6' 6", 304 pound Moose is smart, tough, agile and consistent.

### SECOND TEAM MITCHELL SCHWARTZ CALIFORNIA SENIOR

### OG DAVID DECASTRO STANFORD JUNIOR

The smart, tenacious and exceptionally strong DeCastro has his coaches raving about his great feet, balance and hand-punch.

### SECOND TEAM CARSON YORK OREGON JUNIOR

### C GARTH GERHART ARIZONA STATE SENIOR

The three-year starter is the linchpin of a veteran O-line. At Norco (Calif.) High, Gerhart paved the way for brother (and former Stanford star) Toby.

### SECOND TEAM TEVITA STEVENS UTAH JUNIOR

### OG RYAN MILLER COLORADO SENIOR

The gargantuan (6' 8", 312 pounds) run blocker finished 2010 with 80 knockdown blocks while giving up just two sacks.

### SECOND TEAM JOHN FULLINGTON WASHINGTON STATE SOPHOMORE

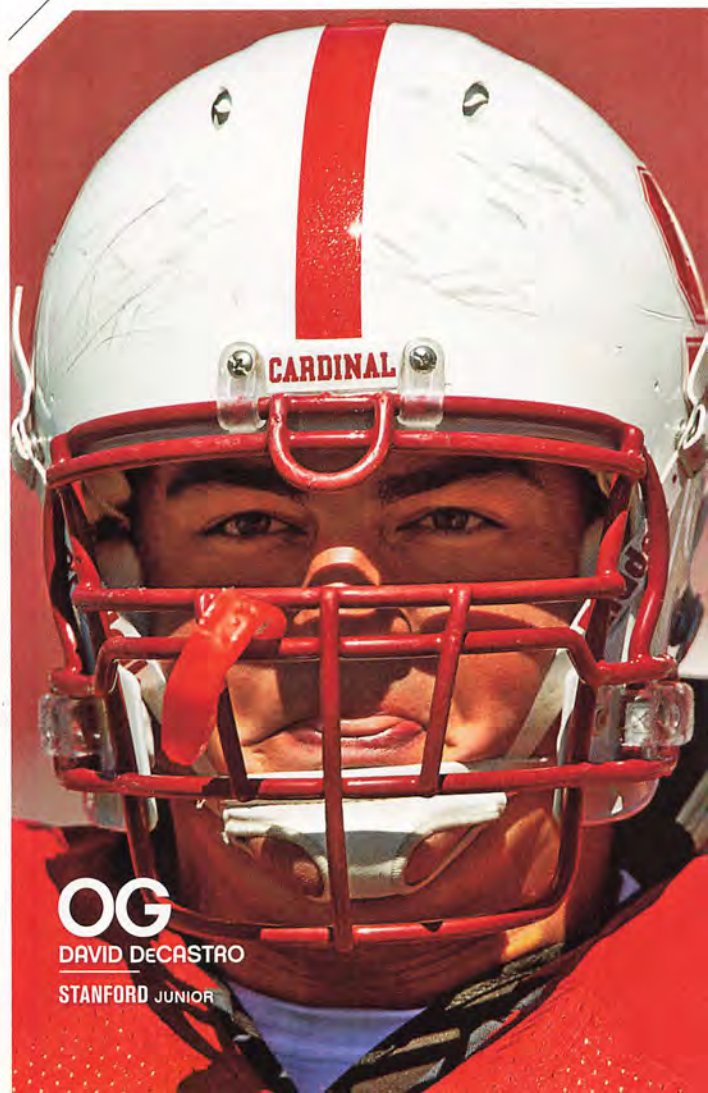
### OT MATT KALIL USC JUNIOR

The redshirt junior is the only Trojans O-line starter returning to the position he played last year and will serve as a coach in the trenches.

### SECOND TEAM TONY BERGSTROM UTAH SENIOR



**TE**  
**DAVID PAULSON**  
OREGON SENIOR



**OG**  
**DAVID DECASTRO**  
STANFORD JUNIOR





**S**  
JOHN BOYETT  
OREGON JUNIOR



**CB**  
NICHELL ROBEY  
USC SOPHOMORE

## 2011 ALL-PAC-12 DEFENSE

They come in all sizes, and some are untamable. But they're all hard-hitting, quick and ready to make life miserable for offenses

### DE JUNIOR ONYEALI ARIZONA STATE SOPHOMORE

The supremely gifted pass rusher had 6½ sacks in 2010 and is capable of bull-rushing a tackle on one play, then beating him to the outside on the next.

### SECOND TEAM TRAVIS LONG WASHINGTON STATE JUNIOR

### DT ALAMEDA TA'AMU WASHINGTON SENIOR

The quick, technically sound 6' 3" 330-pounder had 39 tackles last season, excellent for a down lineman. His explosive burst off the ball gives him good penetration, allowing him to disrupt the run game, and he's adept at using his hands to keep linemen off his body.

### SECOND TEAM DAJOHN HARRIS USC SENIOR

### DT JUSTIN WASHINGTON ARIZONA SOPHOMORE

Though slightly undersized (6' 2", 280 pounds) for a nosetackle, Washington finished 2010 with 46 tackles (11½ for loss), six sacks and a blocked kick.

### SECOND TEAM DOMINIC GLOVER OREGON STATE SENIOR

### DE NICK PERRY USC JUNIOR

A high-ankle sprain early last season limited Perry to four sacks for the year, but the 6' 3" 250-pounder (who boasts 4.6 speed in the 40) has said he wants "more than 15" sacks this season. If he stays healthy, he might just get them.

### SECOND TEAM JAMAAR JARRETT ARIZONA STATE SENIOR

### LB VONTAZE BURFICT ARIZONA STATE JUNIOR

One of the nation's most gifted defenders has also been, at times, one of its most uncontrollable. He had 90 tackles (8½ for loss) last season but was also regularly flagged for personal fouls and unsportsmanlike conduct.

### SECOND TEAM PAUL VASSALLO ARIZONA SENIOR

### LB SHAYNE SKOV STANFORD JUNIOR

The Mohawk-rocking junior all but took over the Orange Bowl with a dozen tackles, three sacks and a pass breakup in the Cardinal's rout of Virginia Tech. In 2010 he had 84 tackles (10½ for loss) to go with 7½ sacks.

### SECOND TEAM SEAN WESTGATE UCLA SENIOR

### LB MYCHAL KENDRICKS CALIFORNIA SENIOR

Superb coming off the edge, Kendricks had 66 tackles last season, including 15 for loss—8½ of which were sacks. The big-play specialist also recovered three fumbles.

### SECOND TEAM CHAZ WALKER UTAH SENIOR

### CB CLIFF HARRIS OREGON JUNIOR

As a freshman he declared to teammates, "I'm here to lock s--- down." He has walked the talk: Harris may be the nation's top cover corner, but a team suspension for a June traffic citation may silence him.

### SECOND TEAM TREVIN WADE ARIZONA SENIOR

### S JOHN BOYETT OREGON JUNIOR

The ball-hawker picked off five and broke up nine passes in 2010, and his 78 tackles, including 11 against Auburn, ranked second among all Ducks.

### SECOND TEAM TONY DYE UCLA SENIOR

### S T.J. McDONALD USC JUNIOR

Despite missing one game with a shoulder injury, McDonald had 89 tackles in 2010, including three for losses (with a sack), plus four deflections.

### SECOND TEAM DELANO HOWELL STANFORD SENIOR

### CB NICKELL ROBEY USC SOPHOMORE

Trojans coaches simply could not keep the 5' 8" freshman off the field last season. He started 13 games, making 48 tackles and a team-high four picks.

### SECOND TEAM DESMOND TRUFANT WASHINGTON JUNIOR



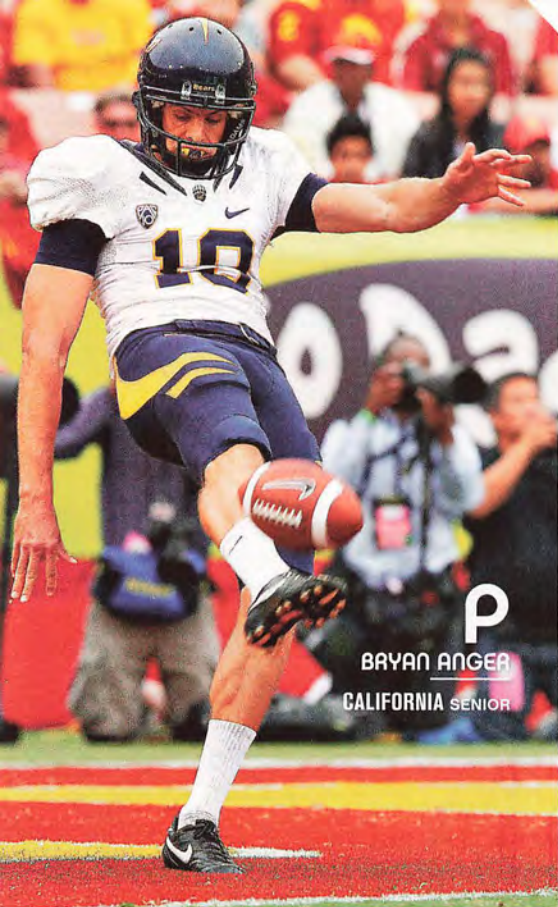


**DT**

JUSTIN WASHINGTON

ARIZONA SOPHOMORE





**P**  
**BRYAN ANGER**  
CALIFORNIA SENIOR

## 2011 ALL-PAC-12 SPECIAL TEAMS

However reliable, the conference's kickers may have trouble getting a leg up on some of the nation's most scintillating return men

### K ERIK FOLK WASHINGTON SENIOR

A perfect 68 for 68 in PATs for his career, Folk gets the edge over Arizona's Alex Zendejas despite a slightly lower field goal percentage (65.0 to 73.7 in 2010) because he has made more clutch kicks and has the stronger leg.

### SECOND TEAM ALEX ZENDEJAS ARIZONA SENIOR

### P BRYAN ANGER CALIFORNIA SENIOR

Anger's 45.6 yards per punt in 2010 broke a 23-year-old Cal record. The two-time all-conference selection has 54 career punts over 50 yards, including a 71-yarder against Stanford last year, his third over 70 yards in a Big Game.

### SECOND TEAM JEFF LOCKE UCLA JUNIOR

### KR CHRIS OWUSU STANFORD SENIOR

Nagged by injuries last year, Owusu should enter this season close to his form of '09, when he ranked fifth in the nation in kickoff-return average (31.5 yards), returning eight for 40 or more yards and bringing back three for TDs.

### SECOND TEAM ROBERT WOODS USC SOPHOMORE

### PR CLIFF HARRIS OREGON JUNIOR

The dazzling talent who led the FBS with four punt returns for TDs in '10 will miss at least the Ducks' opener against LSU, team-levied punishment after receiving a citation for driving 118 mph on a suspended license in June.

### SECOND TEAM DREW TERRELL STANFORD JUNIOR



**PR**  
**CLIFF HARRIS**  
OREGON JUNIOR



K

ERIH FOLH

WASHINGTON SENIOR





Will tailback Isi Sofole and Cal be able to get past an improving Huskies defense (even without departed linebacker Mason Foster) when the teams meet in Washington on Sept. 24?





# PAC-12 NORTH



## CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

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## WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

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- 51 Paul Wulff's Facility of Dreams in Pullman
- 52 Travis Long would rather shut up and play





# CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

Despite Cal's displacement, coach Jeff Tedford's renewed commitment to passers and the preservation of a sturdy defense may mean a remodeled season **BY RYAN HATCH**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Jeff Tedford (10th year)

72-42 (44-33 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Jim Michalczyk

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Clancy Pendergast

**2010 RECORD** 5-7

(3-6, 8th in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**

Offense 7, Defense 6

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**

10, 7, 9, 8, 5

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 52 (6)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 94 (9)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 90 (7)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 35 (5)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 21 (1)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 18 (1)

ON THE HEELS OF EIGHT CONSECUTIVE WINNING SEASONS THAT included four victories in their last five bowl appearances, the Golden Bears' 5-7 record in 2010 was a step backward. "We let a few games get away from us last season," says second-year defensive coordinator Clancy Pendergast. "But we learned and grew from it."

Not that Cal's defense was to blame for last year's decline. The Bears led the conference in total defense (allowing just 319.1 yards per game) and fumbles forced (20) while holding opponents to a third-down-conversion rate of 34.68%, 17th best in the country. Six starters return to a 3-4 style defense that held opponents to 20 points or fewer eight times in 2010. Gone to the NFL are defensive end Cameron Jordan and linebacker Mike Mohamed, but coaches are confident that 6-foot, 241-pound senior Mychal Kendricks will fill the gap inside. The defense had just one significant weakness last year: It intercepted only nine passes, but veteran defensive backs Sean Cattouse and especially Marc Anthony, who led Cal with two in 2010, should help improve that number.

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 NORTH



**THE BIG IF** WILL THE BACKFIELD GET THE TOUCHES TO REPLACE VEREEN'S 1,376 TOTAL YARDS AND BUY TIME FOR THE PASSING GAME TO DEVELOP?

Sofele averaged 4.9 yards over 69 carries as a backup last season.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 FRESNO STATE
- 10 AT COLORADO
- 17 PRESBYTERIAN
- 24 AT WASHINGTON

### OCTOBER

- 6 AT OREGON
- 13 USC
- 22 UTAH
- 29 AT UCLA

### NOVEMBER

- 5 WASHINGTON STATE
- 12 OREGON STATE
- 19 AT STANFORD
- 26 AT ARIZONA STATE

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

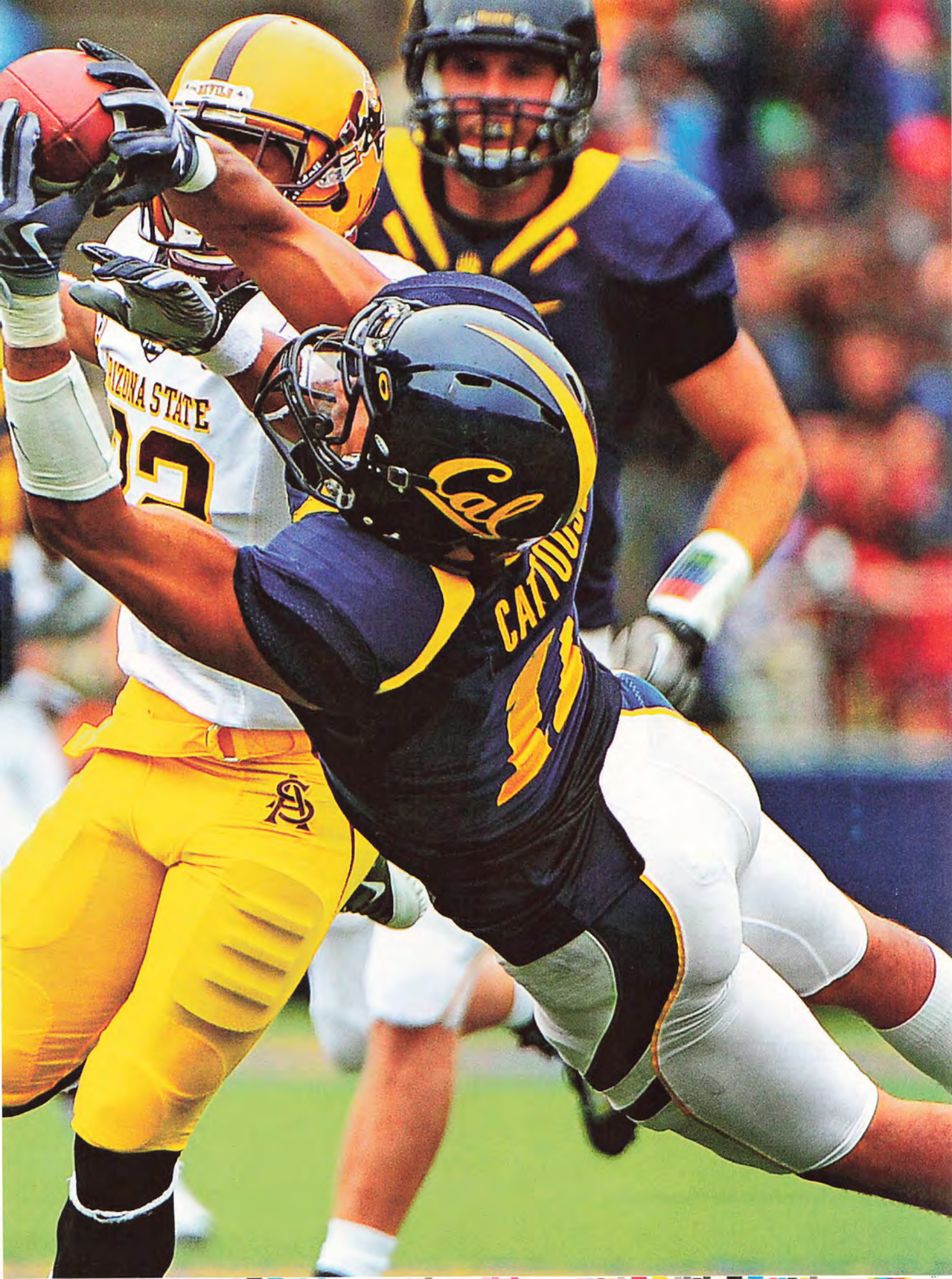
Although all of Cal's games are off campus, Oregon is the first true test, while trips to Stanford and Tempe might decide a bowl berth.

On offense head coach Jeff Tedford is getting back to his roots. The coach with the longest consecutive tenure in the Pac-12 was an offensive coordinator at Fresno State and Oregon, where he developed such talents as Trent Dilfer and Joey Harrington, not to mention Kyle Boller and Aaron Rodgers in Berkeley. After a year in which starter Kevin Riley suffered a season-ending knee injury against Oregon State last Oct. 30 and backup Brock Mansion struggled to match his efficiency, Tedford plans to be more hands-on with the quarterbacks. "I'll be in meeting rooms [and] back in the huddle with them at practice," he promises. Buffalo transfer Zach Maynard will start at QB after sitting out a year per NCAA rules, while spark-plug tailback Isi Sofele will shoulder the backfield load for the departed Shane Vereen.

Heavy rains messed with the new artificial surface on the Bears' practice field this spring, forcing them to travel to high school fields. "It was good training for us," says Tedford, whose team will play all but one of its home games at AT&T Park while Memorial Stadium undergoes a \$321 million reconstruction. Cal will need similarly extensive renovation of its offense before it can make a home in the Top 25.

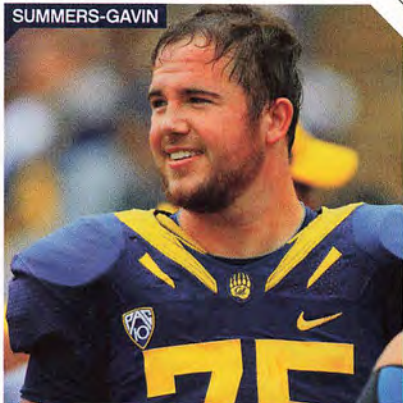
Cattouse and the rest of the Bears' defense must do more pickin' in 2011.







SUMMERS-GAVIN



## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	ZACH MAYNARD	BROCK MANSION
FB	ERIC STEVENS	JOHN TYNDALL
TB	ISI SOFELE	COVAUGHN DEBOSKIE-JOHNSON
WR	MARVIN JONES*	COLEMAN EDMOND
WR	KEENAN ALLEN*	MICHAEL CALVIN
TE	ANTHONY MILLER*	SPENCER LADNER*
LT	MITCHELL SCHWARTZ*	BILL TYNDALL
LG	BRIAN SCHWENKE*	ALEJANDRO CROSTHWAITE
C	DOMINIC GALAS	MARK BRAZINSKI
RG	JUSTIN CHEADLE*	GEOFFREY GIBSON
RT	MATT SUMMERS-GAVIN	TYLER RIGSBEE

### DEFENSE

DE	TREVOR GUYTON	GABE KING
NG	AARON TIPOTI	KENDRICK PAYNE
DE	ERNEST OWUSU*	DEANDRE COLEMAN
LB	DAVID WILKERSON	DAN CAMPOREALE
LB	D.J. HOLT*	STEVEN FANUA
LB	MYCHAL KENDRICKS*	NICK FORBES
LB	RYAN DAVIS	CECIL WHITESIDE
CB	MARC ANTHONY*	ADRIAN LEE
SS	D.J. CAMPBELL	MICHAEL COLEY
FS	SEAN CATTOUSE*	C.J. MONCREASE
CB	STEVE WILLIAMS	JOSH HILL*

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	GIORGIO TAVECCHIO*	VINCENZO D'AMATO
P	BRYAN ANGER*	JED BARNETT
KR	MIKE MANUEL	COLEMAN EDMOND
PR	KEENAN ALLEN*	

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**3** VICTORIES NEEDED FOR JEFF TEDFORD, WHO HAS 72 CAREER COACHING WINS, TO PASS ANDY SMITH (1916-25) AS CAL'S ALLTIME LEADER.

FROM LEFT: DAVE STEPHENSON/ICON SM; EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL PIMENTEL/ISIPHOTOS.COM; CHARLES BAUS/CSM







## KEY RETURNÉES

**WR KEENAN ALLEN** SOPHOMORE

Cal's highly touted wideout had a good freshman season (490 yards, five TDs), but "the excellent route runner," as Jeff Tedford calls him, may really explode this year after a promising spring catching passes from quarterback Zach Maynard, his half brother.

**FS SEAN CATTOUSE** SENIOR

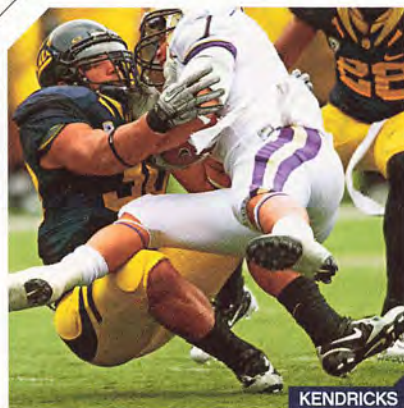
He covers receivers like a cornerback but can tackle like a linebacker. Last season the 6' 2" 213-pounder made several highlight-worthy hits, but to become Cal's biggest playmaker on D he'll need more than the one pick he had last season.

**DE TREVOR GUYTON** SENIOR

The 6' 3" 289-pounder started the last four games of 2010. With 12½ tackles for loss (-55 yards) over the past three years he'll help anchor a defense that averaged 2.83 sacks a game last year.

**TB ISI SOFELE** JUNIOR

The shifty back from Salt Lake City stands just 5' 7" but at 188 pounds can power through tackles. His yards per carry could improve (4.9 in 2010), but more important he needs to find the end zone (zero rushing TDs).



## BREAKOUT PLAYER

**LB MYCHAL KENDRICKS** SENIOR

An experienced veteran leads the charge

After spending most of his time at outside linebacker, Kendricks is moving inside this fall. He can "cover the whole field, has great instincts and can run extremely well," says defensive coordinator Clancy Pendergast. Since 2008 the Fresno native has played in every Bears game (38) and is the defense's active leader in career tackles (152), sacks (10½) and fumble recoveries (five).

## TOP RECRUIT

**NG VILIAMI MOALA** FRESHMAN

A young hulk with skill from fingers to toes

What's not to love? The 6' 2" 350-pounder from Sacramento is built low to the ground, and he has strong hands (as well as a 480-pound bench press) and quick feet. The five-star recruit should wreak havoc on Pac-12 O-lines for years to come.

# COACH'S Q&A



**JEFF  
TEDFORD**

ON STAFF RETURNS,  
THE NEW TITLE GAME  
AND A SUPER ALUM

**SI:** Did you talk to Aaron Rodgers after the Super Bowl?

**JT:** Yeah, we texted back and forth. You can imagine his schedule got real intense afterward. I tried to leave him alone [laughs]. I congratulated him. I knew he was busy, but hopefully we'll have the chance to catch up pretty soon.

**SI:** How's it been having some familiar coaching faces back in the program?

**JT:** Getting [former offensive assistants] Jim Michalczyk and Eric Kiesau back, it's kind of like reassembling the band. We spent so many years together, there's a lot of familiarity there. We can be in a meeting, and we can say, "Oh, remember when this happened in 2002?" and everyone knows exactly what we're talking about.

**SI:** WHAT'S THE OFFENSE'S BIGGEST STRENGTH?

**JT:** OUR RECEIVING CORPS: KEENAN ALLEN, MARVIN JONES AND MICHAEL CALVIN ARE ALL REAL GOOD PLAYERS. I'M EXCITED TO WATCH [THEM] CUT IT LOOSE.

**SI:** How do you feel about the conference expansion?

**JT:** I'm excited. [Colorado and Utah] are two great programs that are coming in. And the whole conference championship game will infuse some enthusiasm for the conference and on the West Coast. It's going to be very competitive.







# PANNING FOR (BLUE AND) GOLD

The young man went west to join his brother and seek his fortune, but it's Cal that may reap the reward of the QB-receiver tandem **BY RYAN HATCH**

AS A QUARTERBACK ZACH MAYNARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN TAUGHT TO LEAVE AS LITTLE TO chance as possible. Control is key. So it was a surprise when the 20-year-old risked his comfort and his football future by leaving Buffalo after the fall 2009 season, leaving behind teammates, friends and a girlfriend and knowing he'd have to sit out a year with no guarantee that he would even play once he became eligible. "I wanted to come here regardless," Maynard says. "It was my choice. I wanted to be a better quarterback and wanted to be under [coach Jeff] Tedford's wing."

And under Tedford, who has produced some of the most successful college quarterbacks in the last decade, Maynard and Cal seem ready to soar. As a sophomore at Buffalo in '09, Maynard passed for 2,694 yards and 18 TDs and had a quarterback efficiency rating of 124.99. In Berkeley he'll have the added bonus of a better O-line and faster receivers—plus the opportunity to throw to his half brother and roommate, sophomore Keenan Allen, possibly the best young receiver in the conference. "We've got that special chemistry going on," Maynard says. "We know exactly what we're doing as soon as we look at each other."

Tedford says Maynard and Allen clicked the minute they stepped onto the Bears' practice field together this spring. "Even if it's not the read, [Maynard] still throws it to him, and it's a big play," Tedford says. "They've done that a thousand times in the street back home, so we say, 'Well, why not?'"

The brothers' partnership, though, almost never moved from the street to the stadium. When coach Turner Gill left Buffalo for Kansas in December '09, Maynard didn't want to stay either. "I didn't really know what to do," says Maynard, who sought the counsel of his mom and dad back home in Greensboro, N.C. "Then I started getting letters from schools, and with my brother coming out of high school at the same time, everything fell into place."

Allen decided on Cal; Maynard joined him in heading west but had to make a community-college stop in San Pablo, Calif., to complete his required academic credits. It was the first time since grade school that Maynard hadn't spent the fall playing football, but he didn't mind the time off. "I worked on my cardio; made a lot of friends," he says. "And the palm trees were nice."

Since enrolling at Cal last January and being named the starter after spring practice, Maynard has shown that he is as dangerous on the ground as through the air. In 2009 he was the Bulls' third-



**EXTRA POINT** AS A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR IN 2007 MAYNARD PASSED FOR 1,635 YARDS AND 20 TDS WHILE RUSHING FOR 1,404 AND 14.

Maynard started 11 of 12 games for Buffalo in '09.

leading rusher with 17 runs for 10 or more yards, and with a lefty release he hits receivers on the fly 40, sometimes 50 yards downfield in stride. But this isn't the MAC. He's going to have to find a way to cut down on interceptions (15 in '09) and make better decisions under pressure. "That's where I need to improve the most," he says. "I want to be a better student of the game. I want to have a backup plan and know what I'm doing when the play breaks down. I want to get my Peyton Manning on."

Tedford can't make Maynard synonymous with Manning, but the coach says that "he's been awesome learning everything." Maynard's path has been winding and at times uncertain, but with two years of eligibility left, he has finally found a home. The rest, one might say, is up to chance. □



# OREGON DUCKS

The national finalists return with winning experience. They're flying high, but with greater expectations will they be able to stand the heat? **BY GEORGE SCHROEDER**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Chip Kelly (3rd year)  
22-4 (17-1 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Mark Helfrich

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Nick Aliotti

**2010 RECORD** 12-1  
(9-0, 1st in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** 3

**RETURNING STARTERS**  
Offense 7, Defense 6

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
7, 9, 10, 10, 12

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 4 (1)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 39 (4)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 1 (1)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 27 (3)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 56 (6)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 34 (4)

OREGON'S RAPID RISE TO THE TOP OF THE CONFERENCE HAS been accompanied in part by chatter about how soon opponents will catch up to Chip Kelly's frantic offense. The coach scoffs at the thought. "We don't run a gimmick deal," he says. "We run the ball. We throw the ball. We're very balanced." And very good, too. Over Kelly's four years in Eugene (the first two as offensive coordinator)—and with five different quarterbacks earning wins—the Ducks have led the conference in total offense, rushing and scoring, and they're showing no signs of descent.

More important, perhaps, is whether the program can keep up with itself. The standards of production have been raised. After two straight conference titles and last season's near miss of a BCS championship, Kelly is well aware that expectations have never been higher. Scrutiny is more intense than ever too: Oregon is under NCAA investigation for its use of scouting services.

"There can't be any more pressure," he insists. "We expect to win every game we play from now until the end of time."

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 NORTH



**THE BIG IF** WILL HARRIS RETURN FROM SUSPENSION AND BE THE ALL-AMERICA DEFENSIVE FORCE AND PLAYMAKER THAT HE WAS LAST SEASON?

Last season Harris defended 23 passes, the most in the FBS.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 LSU (in Arlington, Texas)
- 10 NEVADA
- 17 MISSOURI STATE
- 24 AT ARIZONA

### OCTOBER

- 6 CALIFORNIA
- 15 ARIZONA STATE
- 22 AT COLORADO
- 29 WASHINGTON STATE

### NOVEMBER

- 5 AT WASHINGTON
- 12 AT STANFORD
- 19 USC
- 26 OREGON STATE

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

After a splashy opener at Cowboys Stadium, the toughest games come in November. Only Stanford is likely to stand in the way of winning the division.

At first glance Oregon appears loaded for another run at the conference and national crowns. Heisman finalist LaMichael James, the nation's leading rusher in 2010, returns along with junior quarterback Darron Thomas, who developed into a playmaker in his first season as a starter (he threw for 363 yards in the Ducks' loss to Auburn in the BCS championship game), to lead a plethora of talented offensive skill players. And that's before talking about cornerback Cliff Harris, an All-America punt returner, who, if he returns from a suspension for a June speeding incident, will be an additional scoring weapon.

With only 11 scholarship seniors, Kelly says leadership is the biggest void that needs to be filled. Oregon must replace three veteran offensive linemen and must also develop receiving threats to replace departed wideout Jeff Maehl. "Those are the two real question marks," Kelly says. The defensive losses were significant—six starters, including the team leaders in tackles and sacks—but Kelly liked what he saw in spring practice and believes the replacements are ready. If the coach is correct, the Ducks might not be slowing down soon.

James won the Doak Walker Award and scored a UO-record 24 TDs in 2010.







HUFF



## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	DARRON THOMAS*	BRYAN BENNETT
RB	LAMICHAEL JAMES*	KENJON BARNER
WR	JUSTIN HOFFMAN	WILL MURPHY
WR	JOSH HUFF	NICK COLE
WR	LAVASIER TUINEI*	DARYLE HAWKINS
TE	DAVID PAULSON*	BRANDON WILLIAMS
LT	DARRION WEEMS*	EVERETT BENYARD III
LG	CARSON YORK*	MANA GREIG
C	KARRINGTON ARMSTRONG	HRONISS GRASU
RG	RAMSEN GOLPASHIN	NICK CODY
RT	MARK ASPER*	RYAN CLANTON

### DEFENSE

DE	TERRELL TURNER*	DION JORDAN
DT	WADE KELIHIPI	TAYLOR HART
DT	RICKY HEIMULI	JARED EBERT
DE	BRANDON HANNA	TONY WASHINGTON
LB	KIKO ALONSO	DEWITT STUCKEY
LB	MICHAEL CLAY	DERRICK MALONE JR.
LB	JOSH KADDU*	BOSEKO LOKOMBO
CB	CLIFF HARRIS*	TROY HILL
ROV	EDDIE PLEASANT*	BRIAN JACKSON
FS	JOHN BOYETT*	AVERY PATTERSON
CB	ANTHONY GILDON*	TERRANCE MITCHELL

### SPECIAL TEAMS

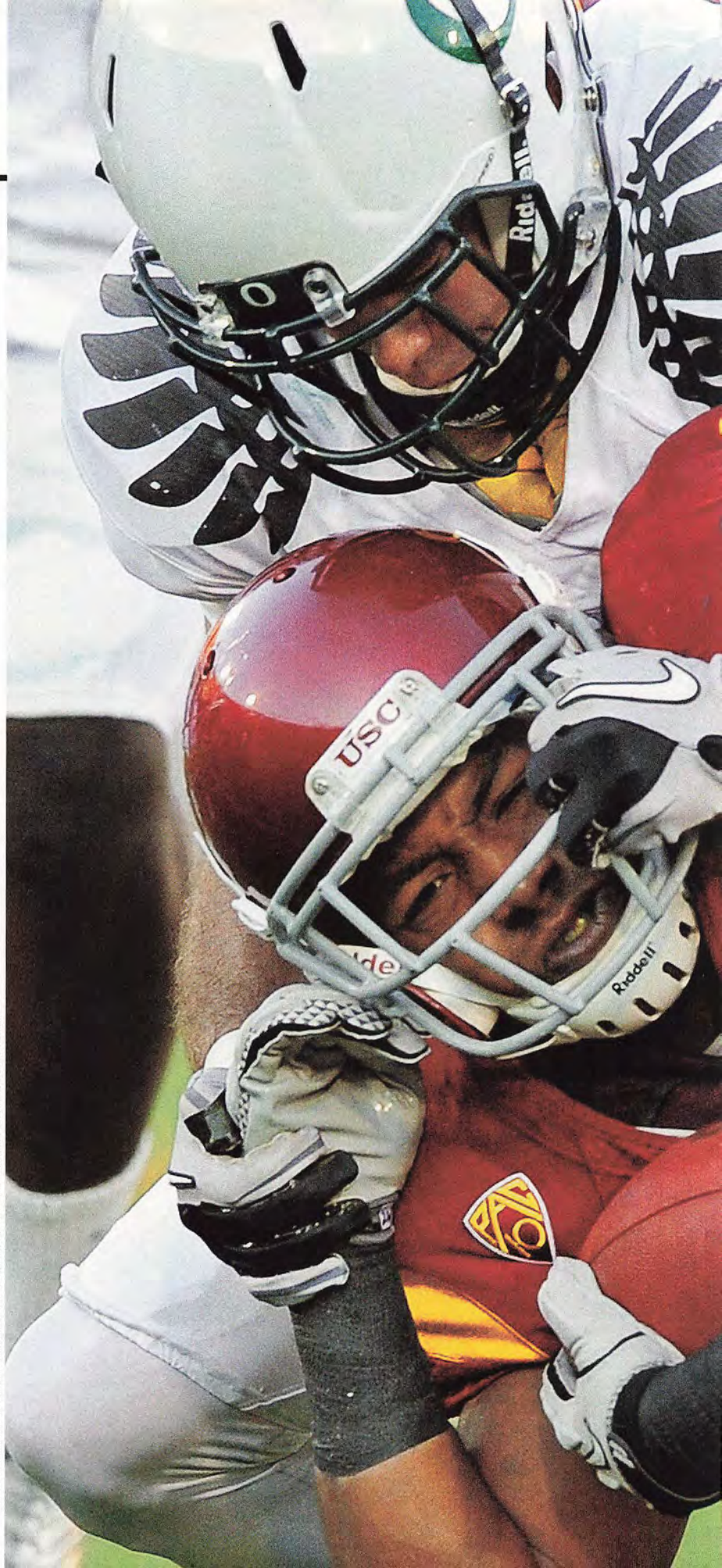
K	ROB BEARD*	ALEJANDRO MALDONADO
P	JACKSON RICE*	ALEJANDRO MALDONADO
KR	JOSH HUFF	KENJON BARNER
PR	CLIFF HARRIS*	KENJON BARNER

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**5** NONOFFENSIVE TOUCHDOWNS LAST SEASON FOR CB-PR CLIFF HARRIS, THE MOST IN DUCKS HISTORY FOR A SEASON AND A CAREER.

FROM LEFT: JASON D. WATSON/US PRESSWIRE; MARK J. TERRILL/AP; MATTHEW EMMONS/US PRESSWIRE; RICK BOWMER/AP







## KEY RETURNEES

### FS JOHN BOYETT JUNIOR

The most consistent Ducks defensive back during his two years as a starter, the former Freshman All-America was Oregon's second-leading tackler as a sophomore in 2010 and had five interceptions.

### CB CLIFF HARRIS JUNIOR

The All-America punt returner has speed to burn—on and off the field. After being clocked at 118 mph with a suspended license in June, Harris will miss at least the season opener. If or when he's allowed to return he'll provide a shutdown corner and a returner who's a threat to score every time he touches the ball.

### RB LAMICHAEL JAMES JUNIOR

After leading the nation in rushing and finishing third in the Heisman vote, James needs 20 yards to surpass Derek Loville's Oregon career-rushing record.

### RT MARK ASPER SENIOR

As a third-year starter at two positions (guard and tackle) and one of three returning starters on the line, Asper will be counted on to lead the Ducks' most inexperienced unit. He's a solid choice: With his wife, Michelle, he manages an apartment complex.



ASPER

## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### DE DION JORDAN JUNIOR

A triple threat for the Ducks' D

Having made the switch from receiver-tight end before last season, Jordan appears poised to become the Ducks' newest defensive playmaker. At 6' 7" and 230 pounds, he is long, lean and athletic—an ideal fit in Oregon's nontraditional scheme. Jordan is versatile enough to stop the run, harass the quarterback or drop back to help out in pass coverage.

## TOP RECRUIT

### RB DE'ANTHONY THOMAS FRESHMAN

Express from L.A. to Eugene

In a last-minute switch, the five-star recruit spurned hometown USC and signed with Oregon, becoming the Ducks' biggest catch in years. Nicknamed the Black Mamba, the speedy Thomas could also see time at receiver.

# COACH'S Q&A



## CHIP KELLY

ON TEAM VERSUS  
TALENT AND BEING IN  
FAST COMPANY

**SI:** Oregon went to the BCS championship game last season, then had only one player [linebacker Casey Matthews] drafted. What does that say?

**CK:** I think some other guys should have been drafted, but I don't coach at that level. . . . That group we had last year really played together as a team and bought into everything that we were teaching. The best team wins on Saturday; it's not the best individual talent.

**SI:** You were recently named one of the 100 "most creative people in business" [No. 30] by Fast Company magazine. What was your reaction?

**CK:** I saw it, and I just kind of shook my head. I do not have a real business acumen. What us scoring a lot of points on offense has to do with business, I can't tell you. I'm in coaching because I'm not in business.

**SI:** HOW DO YOU HANDLE THE SUCCESS OF THE LAST TWO SEASONS WITH THE TEAM?

**CH:** YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM [YOUR SUCCESS]. BUT WE DON'T REALLY TALK ABOUT IT. WE'LL BE JUDGED UPON WHAT WE DO IN 2011.

**SI:** Do you like the idea of a conference championship game?

**CK:** I don't know because I've never been involved in it. Instead of saying, 'Yeah, I'm gonna embrace this, it's a great idea' . . . I don't know. If we win it, it's a great idea.







# AN ATHLETE BY ANY NAME

Some college coaches envisioned putting his skills to other uses on the gridiron, but he was made to play QB—and to lead **BY GEORGE SCHROEDER**

A WORD OF ADVICE: DO NOT CALL DARRON THOMAS AN ATHLETE. OH, HE'S ATHLETIC. There's no doubt that the junior, in his second year as a starter, can run and pass (he'd prefer we reversed that: He can pass and run) and is the best fit yet at the controls of Chip Kelly's fast-paced spread option attack. But please, call him a quarterback.

Les Miles, whose LSU Tigers will face the Ducks in the season opener, could explain why this is important. Among the story lines for the highly anticipated matchup of potential BCS title contenders is that Thomas, a Houston native, originally appeared to be headed to Baton Rouge for college but changed his mind when LSU's coach, um, misspoke. Thomas chafed when various recruiting services kept referring to him as an "athlete." In recruiting parlance, the term refers to a player with an undefined position; for a high school quarterback it suggests an impending position change. Thomas was dead set on quarterbacking in college, and the Tigers coaches were saying all the right things.

But everything changed on Thomas's visit in November 2007. The game he attended was an instant classic, a three-overtime affair won by Arkansas behind Heisman finalist Darren McFadden. As Thomas watched, though, he stewed over something that Miles had said during a pregame chat. Bob Jones, Thomas's coach at Aldine High, remembers it as, "You're a great athlete." Uh-oh. Soon enough LSU was out of the picture, and a fast-talking Oregon assistant named Chip Kelly had persuaded Thomas to become a Duck.

Thomas made a splash as a true freshman when he threw three touchdown passes in a relief appearance against Boise State but redshirted in '09 with Jeremiah Masoli entrenched as the starter. When Masoli was dismissed from the team a year ago, Thomas won the competition to replace him. Oregon was loaded. Without Masoli, who'd led the Ducks to the Rose Bowl in '09, conventional wisdom had the new quarterback's role as mere

caretaker: *Don't make mistakes, get the ball to all of the playmakers, and did we mention not making mistakes?* Turns out Thomas wasn't Masoli. He was better. He was steady and careful with the football, but he was also a much better passer than his predecessor. "He's the perfect athlete," says Oregon State coach Mike Riley (oops, he used that word), "the perfect passer for that system."

Heisman Trophy finalist LaMichael James soaked up much of the spotlight in 2010, but Thomas's performance was at least as important in leading Oregon to its first perfect regular season



**EXTRA POINT** IN WINTER CONDITIONING THOMAS RAN A 4.15 SHUTTLE, TYING FOR FIRST AMONG QBS AND KICKERS.

Thomas threw for 308 yards and three TDs versus UCLA.

in the modern era. Thomas threw for 2,881 yards and 30 touchdowns with only nine picks. And his poise was as much of an asset as his right arm. "He doesn't get rattled," Kelly says. "When you're out on the field, you all look to the quarterback. [His] demeanor is the demeanor of the rest of the team."

That was evident during the BCS championship game, when after a shaky start Thomas threw for 363 yards. Late in the fourth quarter he led Oregon on a drive to tie the game, finishing with a touchdown shovel pass and a perfectly executed toss for the two-point conversion. But the Ducks' eventual loss to Auburn still burns Thomas, which brings us to another warning, this one for opponents: "[That loss] made me want to step my game up two or three notches," Thomas says. □



# OREGON STATE BEAVERS

The program aspires to meet big challenges, but with the need to rebuild after losing two top contributors, has it bitten off more than it can chew? **BY GEORGE SCHROEDER**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Mike Riley (11th year)  
61-40 (41-28 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Danny Langsdorf

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Mark Banker

**2010 RECORD** 5-7  
(4-5, 1-5 in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**  
Offense 7, Defense 4

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
10, 9, 9, 8, 5

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 97 (9)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 71 (7)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 94 (9)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 89 (7)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 79 (7)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 86 (8)

IT'S HIS FAULT, MIKE RILEY ADMITS. ADMINISTRATORS KEEP BRINGING him invitations to play marquee nonconference games—almost always on the road—and he keeps saying yes. Now they're a tradition. "I love those games," the Oregon State coach says. "You love it for your team, your fans, your program. You like to put your team out there." Although the matchups have brought the spotlight, that spotlight hasn't always been flattering. Last year losses to TCU in Arlington, Texas (a virtual home game for the Horned Frogs), and at Boise State meant that by late September the Beavers were in a 1-2 hole. Unlike in past seasons, when slow starts were followed by strong finishes, they never climbed out. "We got in over our heads," Riley says.

Though Riley says the disappointment of last season has created a hunger for success, rebuilding won't be easy. Oregon State lost its top playmakers on both sides of the ball—running back Jacquizz Rodgers and All-America defensive tackle Stephen Paea—both of whom are now in the NFL. "Everybody's gonna have to be better,"

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 NORTH



**THE BIG IF** HAS JAMES RODGERS RECOVERED ENOUGH TO BOOST AN AERIAL ASSAULT IN THE WAKE OF HIS BROTHER'S DEPARTURE?

Rodgers has a Beavers-record 5,784 career all-purpose yards.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 SACRAMENTO STATE
- 10 AT WISCONSIN
- 24 UCLA

### OCTOBER

- 1 AT ARIZONA STATE
- 8 ARIZONA
- 15 BYU
- 22 WASHINGTON STATE (in Seattle)
- 29 AT UTAH

### NOVEMBER

- 5 STANFORD
- 12 AT CALIFORNIA
- 19 WASHINGTON
- 26 AT OREGON

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Beavers may not be ready for their close-up in their only TV appearance of 2011, at Wisconsin—under Riley they are 1-13 in September road games.

Riley says, "because we don't have a ready-made Stephen or Quizz."

On offense other question marks involve the health of several key returning players, including standout wide receiver-kick returner James Rodgers, Jacquizz's older brother, who has had two surgeries for a left-knee injury sustained in the fifth game of the 2010 season. Without Jacquizz, a three-time 1,000-yard rusher, the offensive emphasis will shift to the right arm of junior quarterback Ryan Katz. He was inconsistent last season, but Riley expects a big leap for the second-year starter. The Beavers need Katz and the offense to produce, because the relatively green defense is coming off a season in which it didn't live up to the gritty standard set by its predecessors. "We need depth and continued growth there," Riley says. "But these kids have a chip on their shoulder. That's a good way to approach this coming year." Having a chip is a good strategy for Riley's bunch, and it typically works.

Speaking of typical, the nonconference schedule is loaded, including games against Wisconsin and BYU. Some things don't change, and Riley's not sure he wants them to. "We understand how those [games] can affect a season," he says. "But for me, I love that challenge."

OSU will rely on Joe Halahuni and the receiving corps to pick up the slack.







# PAC-12REPORT

## THE BEAVERS

### PAC-12 NORTH

FRAHM



### PROJECTED LINEUP

#### OFFENSE

QB	RYAN KATZ*	CODY VAZ
FB	CLAYTON YORK	TYLER ANDERSON
TB	RYAN McCANTS	JOVAN STEVENSON
WR	MARKUS WHEATON*	OBUM GWACHAM
WR	JAMES RODGERS	DARRELL CATCHINGS
TE	JOE HALAHUNI*	COLBY PRINCE
LT	MIKE REMMERS*	GEOFF GARNER
LG	JOSH ANDREWS	GRANT ENGER
C	GRANT JOHNSON*	ROMAN SAPOLU
RG	BURKE ELLIS*	MICHAEL LAMB
RT	MICHAEL PHILIPP*	COLIN KELLY

#### DEFENSE

DE	TAYLOR HENRY	DEVON KELL
DT	DOMINIC GLOVER*	CASTRO MASANAI
DT	KEVIN FRAHM	ANDREW SEUMALO
DE	SCOTT CRICHTON	MANA ROSA
LB	CAMERON COLLINS	RUEBEN ROBINSON*
LB	FETI UNGA	TONY WILSON
LB	MICHAEL DOCTOR	D.J. WELCH
CB	JORDAN POYER	SEAN MARTIN
S	ANTHONY WATKINS	JOSH LAGRONE
S	LANCE MITCHELL*	DAX DILBECK
CB	BRANDON HARDIN*	RASHAAD REYNOLDS

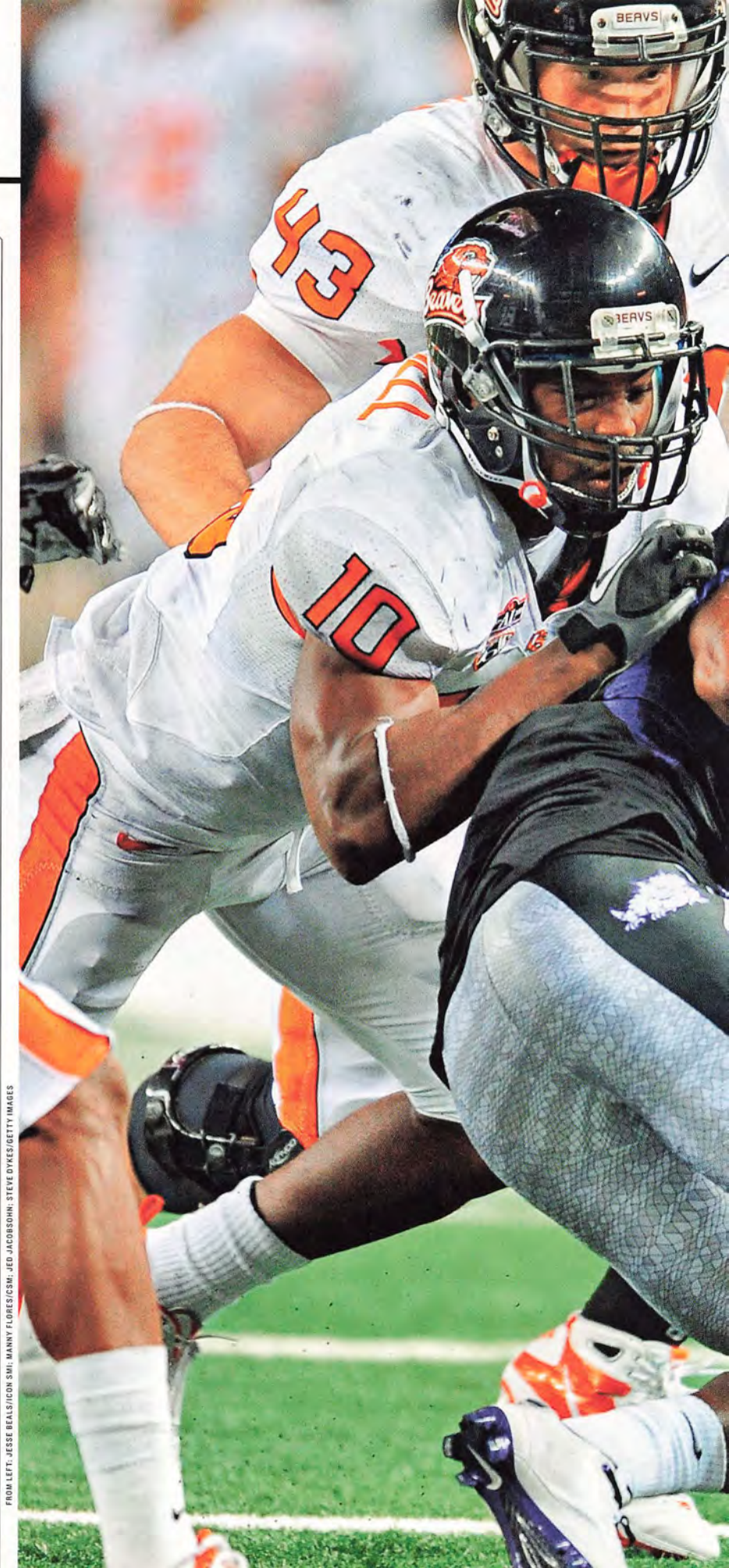
#### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	TREVOR ROMAINE	MAX JOHNSON
P	JOHNNY HEKKER	KEITH KOSTOL
KR	JORDAN POYER*	RASHAAD REYNOLDS
PR	JORDAN POYER*	MARKUS WHEATON*

\*Returning starter

### TELLING NUMBER

**44** RECEPTIONS NEEDED BY JAMES RODGERS, WHO ENTERS 2011 WITH 177 CATCHES, TO PASS MIKE HASS AS THE BEAVERS' CAREER LEADER.



FROM LEFT: JESSE BEALS/ICON SM; MANNY FLORES/CSM; JED JACOBSON/STEVE DYKES/GETTY IMAGES





## KEY RETURNÉES

### DT KEVIN FRAHM SENIOR

The exit of run-stopping All-America tackle Stephen Paea leaves a big hole in the line; Frahm will be counted on to help fill it. The 6' 2" 273-pounder had 33 tackles and three sacks in 2010, his first season as a tackle after moving from end.

### TE JOE HALAHUNI SENIOR

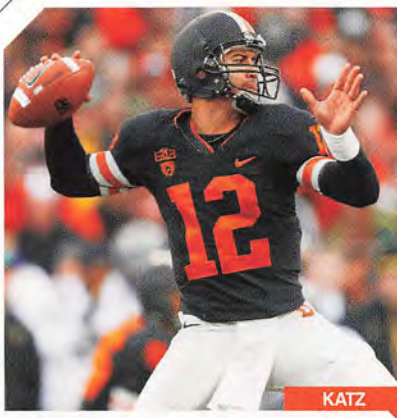
The Beavers are hoping for a quick recovery from off-season shoulder surgery by the Tank, who could be in the lineup as early as September. Halahuni was an All-Pac-10 selection last year, when he had 30 catches for 390 yards and six touchdowns.

### S LANCE MITCHELL SENIOR

Oregon State's top returning tackler (74, with two interceptions) has made 21 straight starts. If he can stay consistent, he could be the best and most experienced playmaker on the secondary.

### WR JAMES RODGERS SENIOR

Losing Rodgers to a knee injury in the fifth game last season was a devastating blow. After two surgeries he insists he'll be ready. If so, the Beavers regain a potent weapon and the team's emotional leader.



KATZ

## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### QB RYAN KATZ JUNIOR

Now-seasoned gunslinger could live up to potential

He was inconsistent in his first year as a starter, but when Katz was good, Oregon State was too. With as strong an arm as any college quarterback, Katz has the talent, and now the experience, to truly lead the offense for the first time. A broken bone in his right (throwing) wrist should be healed by the time fall camp begins.

## TOP RECRUIT

### DE RUSTY FERNANDO JUNIOR

Bulked up and pumped to make a heavy impact

A transfer from Glendale (Ariz.) Community College, Fernando enrolled last January at an undersized 190 pounds. By the end of spring practice he'd gained 42 pounds, shown surprising strength and speed, and won a starting job.

# COACH'S Q&A



## MIKE RILEY

ON KEEPING UP WITH A RIVAL AND LIFE IN THE HILLS

**SI:** *What do you anticipate from Ryan Katz in his second year as starting quarterback?*

**MR:** He's capable of a big leap. He kind of went as our team went [in 2010]. Or maybe our team went as our quarterback [did]. Those games that we won he was terrific, but when we were just average we lost, and he didn't play as well. I anticipate him growing to be more consistent.

**SI:** *What's it like being just up the road from the Ducks in Eugene these days?*

**MR:** It's not unlike what happened to this whole league when all of a sudden USC was [beyond] everybody else. Oregon has raised the bar. We want to get back to where [the rivalry] is on an even keel. It's just one more challenge we have to deal with. We have an identity here. We do good things. We love our life, basically.

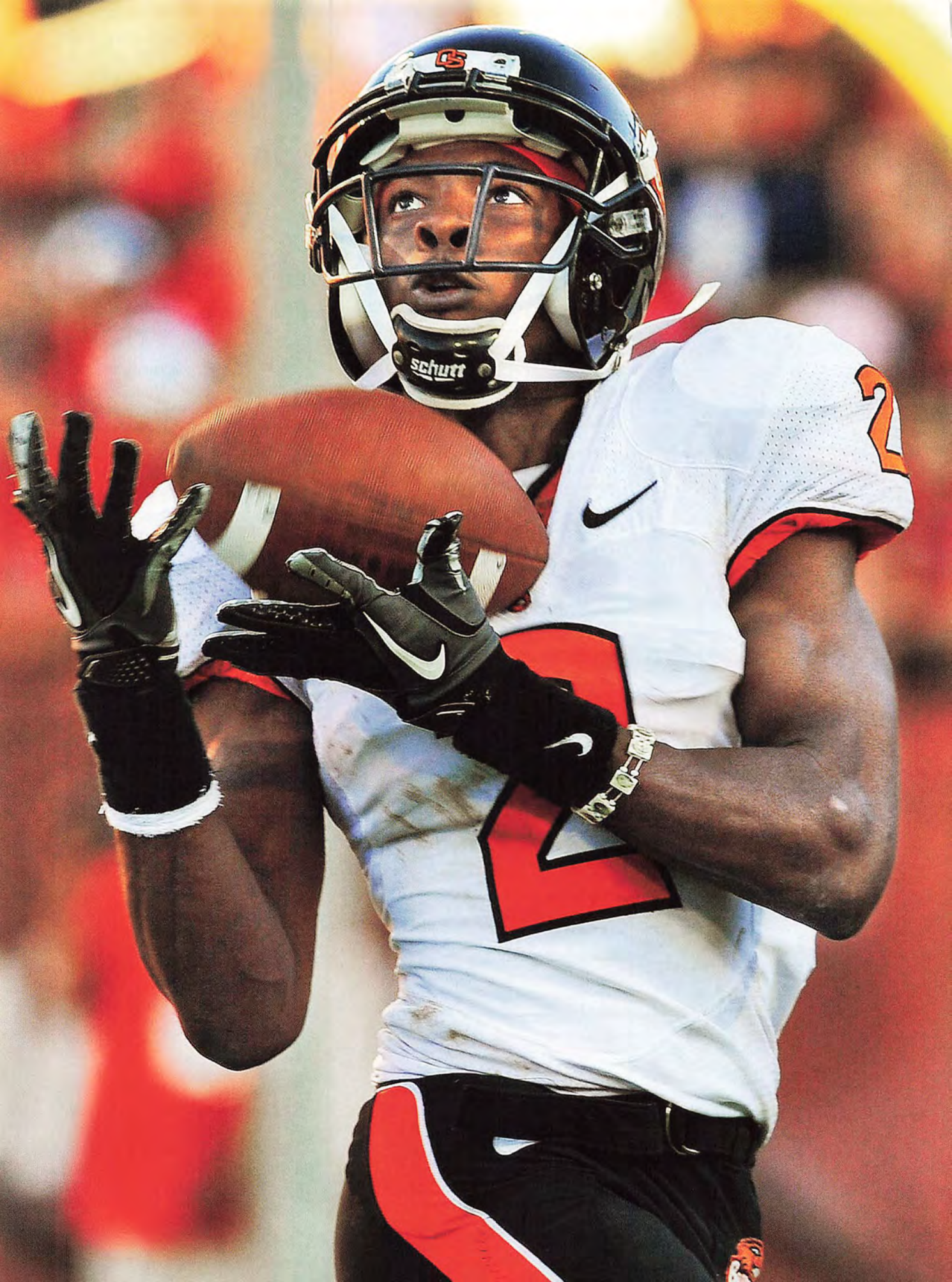
## SI: HOW DO YOU REPLACE JACQUIZZ RODGERS?

**MR:** THAT'S THE MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION. YOU COULD GO A LIFETIME AND NOT COACH A GUY LIKE THAT. IT MIGHT HAVE TO BE BY COMMITTEE.

**SI:** *Your off-season retreat is an old German farmhouse in Texas hill country. What do you like about that area?*

**MR:** We always enjoy [our] little place on the Guadalupe River down there. We like the music and the food in the area. It's really kind of fun. We're thankful to be able to do it.







# MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF

The family name may still be synonymous with Ducks glory, but this season Markus is poised to claim it for Corvallis **BY GEORGE SCHROEDER**

LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, MARKUS WHEATON GREW UP WITH THE RADIO CALL. HE CAN hear it in his head, the announcer's voice rising in excitement until it is almost a wail: "Kenny Wheaton's gonna score! Kenny Wheaton's gonna score!" It was the seminal moment in Oregon's football history, an interception return for a touchdown that helped send the Ducks to the 1995 Rose Bowl; it was produced by his cousin, and . . . well, given that pedigree there was no way Markus Wheaton would become a Beaver, right?

That's what Mike Riley thought. When Wheaton first showed up on his recruiting radar as a speedy wide receiver from Chandler, Ariz., he asked his assistants: "Do you know who his cousin is?" Not to mention—and cover your ears for a moment, Beavers fans—Wheaton freely admits that as a child, "I loved the Ducks."

Yet here he is in Corvallis. He preferred Oregon State over Oregon and other suitors. And in his third season he'll be counted on as perhaps the Beavers' most potent playmaker. "He's got tons of ability," Riley says. "He can make plays. He can catch. He can run like the wind."

Wheaton's emergence began last season. He'd been used sparingly as a freshman, in 2009, and most people expected him to make incremental progress as a sophomore last year. But when star receiver James Rodgers suffered a season-ending left-knee injury in the fifth game, Wheaton became quarterback Ryan Katz's primary target and led the team with 55 catches for 675 yards and four touchdowns. He also took over Rodgers's role on Oregon State's go-to play, the flysweep, and rushed for a total of 222 yards and two touchdowns on 27 carries.

"For a couple of years he brought his talent," Riley says. "As he grew last year he started bringing maturity to his play." That development continued during spring practice, when Wheaton occasionally dominated Beavers defensive backs.

His continued growth is imperative as the offense changes with the departure of tailback

Jacquizz Rodgers and will likely lean on the passing game. Meanwhile James Rodgers's status remains uncertain after two knee surgeries, which means Wheaton's playmaking ability and his embracing of a leadership role have become particularly essential. The increased maturity might have been enhanced by a mission trip Wheaton made to Guatemala over spring break, just before spring practice began. Along with several other Oregon State athletes, he helped build a house for a needy family, and he says it was a transformational experience.

"It was amazing," Wheaton says. "Just seeing



**EXTRA POINT** WHEATON ALSO SPRINTS FOR THE BEAVERS, FINISHING SECOND IN THE 100 METERS AT THE OREGON TWILIGHT MEET IN MAY.

Wheaton had 1,028 all-purpose yards in 2010.

how they live, their everyday lives, makes you realize that we're really fortunate."

Wheaton provided a glimpse of his promise with 10 catches for 137 yards and a touchdown in a Civil War loss to Oregon last year, but the family bragging rights still remain with Kenny. Markus wants to beat the Ducks this season, and he says he doesn't care how it happens. But yes, it has crossed his mind, the delicious possibility of prompting some broadcaster to produce another signature call—"Markus Wheaton's gonna score! Markus Wheaton's gonna score!"—in a signature Oregon State moment against its in-state rivals.

His coach chuckles at the thought. "That," Riley says, "would be kind of fun—and he's capable of doing it." □



# STANFORD CARDINAL

The pros claimed a lot of key figures, but Stanford held on to perhaps the most important one. That Luck-y break could propel it even further in 2011 **BY KELLI ANDERSON**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** David Shaw (1st year)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Pep Hamilton

**CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS**  
Derek Mason, Jason Tarver

**2010 RECORD** 12-1  
(8-1, 2nd in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** 4

**RETURNING STARTERS**

Offense 5, Defense 6

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
1, 4, 5, 8, 12

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 17 (2)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 29 (3)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 14 (2)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 19 (2)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 35 (3)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 21 (2)

WHEN QUARTERBACK ANDREW LUCK ANNOUNCED LAST JANUARY that he would pass up the millions he would have collected as the likely No. 1 pick in the NFL draft to return to Stanford, the hallelujahs could be heard from the foothills to the Bay. (O.K., maybe not the East Bay.) Still, it will take a lot more than Luck to get the Cardinal back to last year's lofty heights: a school-record 12 wins and a BCS bowl victory.

Can it happen? The off-season losses were substantial: Jim Harbaugh, the coach who engineered the program's almost unthinkable rise to national significance, is now with the 49ers, as is defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, who transformed a porous unit that was eighth in the Pac-10 in points allowed per game (26.5) in 2009 into one that was 10th in the *nation* (17.4) last year. The team also said goodbye to a number of stalwarts on defense; its top two receivers; and three starters, including All-America center Chase Beeler, from an offensive line that had given up just 13 sacks over the last two seasons.

But Cardinal fans do have reason for optimism. With Luck at the helm,

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 NORTH



**THE BIG IF** CAN THE VERSATILE AND SEASONED CARDINAL OFFENSE MATCH OR EVEN SURPASS LAST YEAR'S RECORD-BREAKING PRODUCTION?

Owusu is sure to boost Stanford's numbers—if he can stay healthy.

### SCHEDULE

#### SEPTEMBER

- 3 SAN JOSE STATE
- 10 AT DUKE
- 17 AT ARIZONA

#### OCTOBER

- 1 UCLA
- 8 COLORADO
- 15 AT WASHINGTON STATE
- 22 WASHINGTON
- 29 AT USC

#### NOVEMBER

- 5 AT OREGON STATE
- 12 OREGON
- 19 CALIFORNIA
- 26 NOTRE DAME

### SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Home field advantage against the Ducks and the Bears could set up a nice argument for the BCS title game just in time to host the Irish on national TV.

the offense, which last year set a school scoring record (524 points), should fly high again, especially if electrifying senior wideout Chris Owusu, who was limited to seven games last year, can avoid injury. "We need Chris to stay healthy for the entire season," says new head coach David Shaw, who was the offensive coordinator under Harbaugh. "We're a different team when he's there [than] when he's not."

Either way Stanford will run the ball often. The top four rushers return, including Luck, who gained 453 yards on top of his 3,338 passing yards, and junior Stepfan Taylor, who was the first Stanford sophomore to crack 1,000 yards rushing since Darrin Nelson in 1978. "The best thing about our team is the diversity," says Shaw. "We have multiple running backs and receivers who could have 100-yard games. And our tight ends are explosive; any one of them could be the hero."

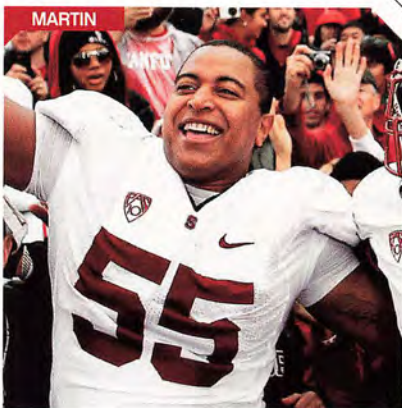
The defense, which had three shutouts in 2010, will have some unpredictable elements. Co-coordinators Derek Mason and Jason Tarver, who share some of Fangio's coaching DNA, plan to hew to his 3-4 base—with a few wrinkles. "We're going to keep pushing the envelope," says Shaw, "to keep our opponents off balance and keep winning games."

Luck's junior year may see him—and his program—leaping to new heights.









## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	ANDREW LUCK*	JOSH NUNES
RB	STEPHAN TAYLOR*	ANTHONY WILKERSON
FB	RYAN HEWITT	GEOFF MEINKEN
WR	CHRIS OWUSU	JAMAL-RASHAD PATTERSON
WR	GRIFF WHALEN	DREW TERRELL
TE	COBY FLEENER*	ZACH ERTZ
LT	JONATHAN MARTIN*	TYLER MABRY
LG	KEVIN DANSER	MATT BENTLER
C	SAM SCHWARTZSTEIN	KHALIL WILKES
RG	DAVID DECASTRO*	COLE UNDERWOOD
RT	TYLER MABRY	CAMERON FLEMING

### DEFENSE

DE	MATT MASFILO*	JOSH MAURO
NG	TERRENCE STEPHENS	HENRY ANDERSON
DE	BEN GARDNER	JACOB GOWAN
LB	TRENT MURPHY	ALEX DEBIAK
LB	SHAYNE SKOV*	JOE HEMSCHOOT
LB	MAX BERGEN	A.J. TARPLEY
LB	CHASE THOMAS*	BLAKE LUEDERS
CB	BARRY BROWNING	TERRENCE BROWN
SS	DELANO HOWELL*	DEVON CARRINGTON
FS	MICHAEL THOMAS*	KYLE OLUGBODE
CB	JOHNSON BADEMOSI*	USUA AMANAM

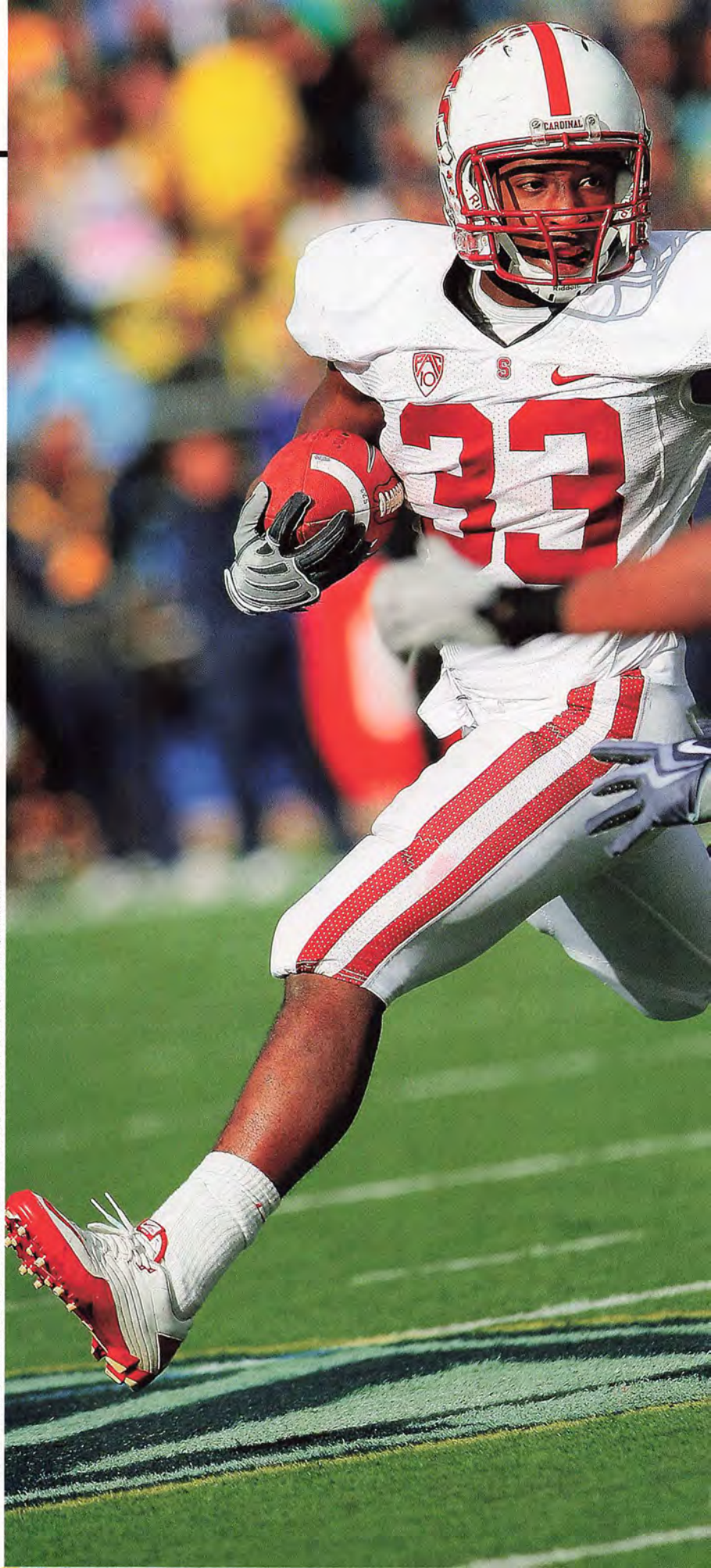
### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	JORDAN WILLIAMSON	ERIC WHITAKER
P	DAVID GREEN	DANIEL ZYCHLINSKI*
KR	CHRIS OWUSU	
PR	DREW TERRELL	GRIFF WHALEN

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**34:34** AVERAGE  
TIME OF POSSESSION FOR  
STANFORD, THE NATION'S  
HIGHEST IN 2010 AND THIRD  
HIGHEST IN 15 SEASONS.



FROM LEFT: EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES; DAVE STEPHENSON/ICON SM; MATT COHEN/SOUTHCREEK GLOBAL/ZUMA PRESS; KYLE TERADA/US PRESSWIRE





## KEY RETURNEES

### QB ANDREW LUCK JUNIOR

The Heisman finalist has a chance to top last year's school-record 32 passing TDs and conference-record 70.7% completion rate. "We put a lot of the offense in his hands last year," says David Shaw, "and we want to put even more of it in his hands this year."

### LT JONATHAN MARTIN SENIOR

The man nicknamed Moose and his fellow All-Pac-10 first-team selection David DeCastro will be the O-line's only veteran starters, and as the lineman assigned to protect the quarterback's blind side, Martin may be the most important returnee not named Luck.

### RB STEPFAN TAYLOR JUNIOR

He broke out in 2010 with 1,137 rushing yards, at Stanford second only to Toby Gerhart's 1,871 in 2009. Taylor also became just the second back in Cardinal history to rush for 100 yards in five straight games.

### SS DELANO HOWELL SENIOR

The former SuperPrep All-America at running back switched to defensive back in '09. His 60 tackles and a team-high five interceptions landed him on the All-Pac-10 second team last season.



HOWELL

## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### WR CHRIS OWUSU SENIOR

Good health could mean busting out all over again

A healthy Owusu is one of the best big-play guys in the country, especially on kickoffs. As a sophomore in 2009 he had 37 returns for 1,167 yards and three TDs to go with 37 catches for 682 yards and five TDs. Limited by an assortment of injuries last year, his numbers dropped to 19 returns for 462 yards and 25 catches for 396 yards.

## TOP RECRUIT

### LB JAMES VAUGHTERS FRESHMAN

Opposing quarterbacks of the future, beware

Keeping the 6' 2", 225-pound four-star recruit after the departures of Jim Harbaugh and Vic Fangio was a huge coup for Shaw. A bulldozer with 4.6 speed in the 40 and a knack for rushing the passer, Vaughters had 95 tackles, four sacks and four picks as a senior at Tucker (Ga.) High.

# COACH'S Q&A



## DAVID SHAW

ON THE PRINCIPLES  
(AND THE MUSIC)  
THAT DRIVE HIM

**SI:** *What's the biggest stylistic difference between you and Jim Harbaugh?*

**DS:** We're different personalities, but the core composition is the same: We both have football-coach fathers, and we understand that it's all about trying to win every day. One thing that defines me is that I'm very direct with people.

## SI: WHAT'S ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?

**DS:** THREE BOOKS: A BIO OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, ANOTHER ABOUT THOMAS JEFFERSON—MY TWO FAVORITE PRESIDENTS—AND *THE GREATEST SALESMAN IN THE WORLD*. I'VE READ IT 10 TIMES. IT'S INSPIRATIONAL.

**SI:** *What would your players be surprised to learn about you?*

**DS:** The span of my music collection. My iPod [includes] Jay-Z, Sade, Kenny Rogers, classical music. When I feel like grunge, I have Stone Temple Pilots on call. Sometimes I want Mozart.

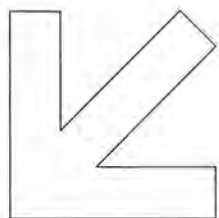
**SI:** *You participated in track and basketball in addition to football at Stanford in the early '90s. How did you manage that?*

**DS:** I joined track to work on my speed at shorter distances. They talked me into running the 400, which was masochistic. I joined the basketball team to help them practice because they had nine guys. Against Oregon State we were winning big, and coach [Mike] Montgomery put me in. I have one NCAA stat, a rebound.









# DEVIL IN A RED JERSEY

The Stanford linebacker is an exercise in contradictions: Off the field he's a mellow thinker. But when the uniform goes on, watch out **BY KELLI ANDERSON**

SHAYNE SKOV'S TRANSITION FROM LAID-BACK LOCKER-ROOM CLOWN TO GRIDIRON TERROR is so startling that one teammate has compared him to Damien, the evil five-year-old in *The Omen*. There is the ghoulish eye black, which the 6' 3" 243-pounder paints on his cheeks in quantities that would make Gene Simmons blush. There's the warrior haircut of last season, a ginger Mohawk that Skov sported long after most of his teammates who had dabbled with the 'do had given it up. Then there's the debris trail. Skov tears up so much turf that he leaves divots in the grass. "Shayne drives everything he has into those cleats," says co-defensive coordinator Jason Tarver. "Even when he is on the new type of field turf, you can see the little chips of rubber flying. It's like he leaves a footprint."

Skov's drive earned him a starting spot halfway through his freshman year, in 2009, when he made 62 tackles, third best on the team, to earn the Menlo-Atherton Award as the Cardinal's top freshman. Despite missing two games with a leg injury last season, he led the team with 84 tackles, including 12 in Stanford's 40-12 win over Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl. "He plays the game the way it's supposed to be played," says coach David Shaw. "All out, all the time."

You might not guess that if you were you to encounter Skov, a thoughtful management science and engineering major, off the field. "In the locker room I'm actually quite docile and goofy," he says. "And I'm probably the laziest guy on the team when it comes to going out and doing stuff. But when I play football... I guess there's something in the game that brings out something that's counter to my personality."

He first discovered the game's transformative influence in Mexico. The oldest of four children, Skov had spent his grade school years in San Francisco happily playing soccer and basketball. But before he entered junior high, his mother, Terri, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of multiple sclerosis, which inspired the family to move to the balmy climate of Guadalajara. There Skov and his

younger brother, Patrick (now an incoming freshman fullback at Stanford), joined an American football club and got a rough introduction to the sport. Their team, Carneros, practiced on dirt fields and endured countless hitting drills, including one in which the whole team lined up in two lines facing one player. "With each blow of the whistle, they'd come straight at you from five yards away, and you had to hit two guys at once," recalls Skov, who played wide receiver and safety for Carneros. "If you were new, it was pretty traumatic because you spent a lot of time on your back. It was a much



**EXTRA POINT** SKOV'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER ROGERS P. SMITH WAS CAPTAIN OF STANFORD'S VARSITY TRACK TEAM IN 1931.

Skov had eight tackles against Notre Dame last year.

tougher way to learn the game, but I loved it."

Skov returned to the States for high school, spending two years at Piedmont (Calif.) High before transferring to Trinity-Pawling, an all-boys' prep school an hour and a half outside New York City, for three years. The summer after his first year there, he gained 30 pounds and switched to linebacker. "I like being involved in the action constantly," says Skov. "And I'd rather make the hit than be hit. Linebacker fills those needs for me."

And he fills an important need for Stanford, giving it a defensive leader who is reliable and passionate—at least when he's in gridiron mode. "I've learned that a lot of the game is attitude and mind-set," says Skov. "If you can tap into the psychological component, it can make up a great deal of your success." □



# WASHINGTON HUSKIES

Three years removed from a winless season, Washington has developed a taste for success—and if its young pups learn quickly, more may be on the way **BY RYAN HATCH**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Steve Sarkisian (3rd year)  
12–13 (9–9 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Doug Nussmeier

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Nick Holt

**2010 RECORD** 7–6  
(5–4, T-3 in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**  
Offense 5, Defense 8

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
5, 4, 0, 5, 7

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 38 (5)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 84 (8)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 76 (6)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 97 (8)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 27 (2)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 70 (6)

STEVE SARKISIAN SWELLED WITH PRIDE AS HE STOOD AT MID-field shortly after the Huskies' 19–7 win over Nebraska last Dec. 30, watching his team celebrate with the Holiday Bowl trophy. "To look around at those seniors, who had endured so much in their careers here," Sarkisian says, "I was just so proud of them." It was a crowning moment for the third-year coach, who inherited a team that finished 0–12 in 2008 and has improved its record each year since. But winning only breeds the desire for more, and even after the graduation of All-America QB Jake Locker, expectations for the program are rising.

Five starters return on offense, including Chris Polk, whose 1,415 yards rushing last year was the second-best single-season total in school history and who is poised for a big encore as a junior. Sarkisian says Polk's focus on conditioning this off-season was relentless, calling him a "war daddy" in the weight room. Sophomore Keith Price will start at quarterback (with Nick Montana, son of Joe, waiting in the wings) and throw to receivers Jermaine Kearse and Devin Aguilar, a 6-foot, 188-pound speedster. Still,

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 NORTH



**THE BIG IF** WILL THE YOUNG OFFENSIVE LINE MATURE WELL ENOUGH TO PROTECT WASHINGTON'S NEW QB AND CREATE SPACE FOR ITS STAR RUSHER?

Tackle Senio Kelemete will be the only senior starter on the line.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 EASTERN WASHINGTON
- 10 HAWAII
- 17 AT NEBRASKA
- 24 CALIFORNIA

### OCTOBER

- 1 AT UTAH
- 15 COLORADO
- 22 AT STANFORD
- 29 ARIZONA

### NOVEMBER

- 5 OREGON
- 12 AT USC
- 19 AT OREGON STATE
- 26 WASH. STATE (at CenturyLink Field)

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Starting with a road trip to Stanford in late October, a four-game slate that includes hosting the BCS finalists should serve as a Pac-12 murderers' row.

success moving the ball will hinge on a young offensive line and whether there will be some quick learning at several skill positions.

The defense really struggled at times last fall—giving up 138 points in a span of three midseason losses—but righted the ship when it allowed an average of just 13.75 points over the last four games of the year. While eight starters return, only Cort Dennison will bring any experience to the linebackers' corps; the Huskies' playmakers on D are in the secondary and at noseguard in Alameda Ta'amu. If some young players can fill the defensive gaps, Washington should pick up right where it left off last season.

Sarkisian's incoming class should be his best yet, highlighted by tight ends Austin Seferian-Jenkins, who will likely see time right away, and redshirt freshman Michael Hartvigson, a crushing 6' 6", 246-pound blocker. They will help solidify a position that's been nonexistent for the Huskies in recent years. "We went from having basically no tight end to two really good ones," Sarkisian says.

Washington's seven wins last year raised the bar. Anything less this season will be a disappointment.

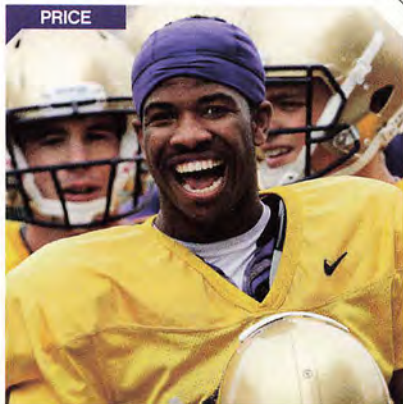
In the Holiday Bowl, Polk, the offensive MVP, carried a career-high 34 times.







## PRICE



## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	KEITH PRICE	NICK MONTANA
RB	CHRIS POLK*	JESSE CALLIER
WR	JERMAINE KEARSE*	JAMES JOHNSON
WR	KEVIN SMITH	DIANDRE CAMPBELL
WR	DEVIN AGUILAR	CODY BRUNS
TE	AUSTIN SEFERIAN-JENKINS	MICHAEL HARTVIGSON
LT	SENIO KELEMETE*	MICAH HATCHIE
LG	COLIN TANIGAWA	ERIK KOHLER
C	DREW SCHAEFER*	DANIEL KANCZUGOWSKI
RG	COLIN PORTER*	JAMES ATOE
RT	ERIK KOHLER	BEN RIVA

### DEFENSE

DE	EVERRETTE THOMPSON*	TALIA CRICHTON*
DT	ALAMEDA TA'AMU*	LAWRENCE LAGAFUAINA
DT	SIONE POTOA'E	SEMISI TOKOLAH
DE	HAU'OLI JAMORA*	ANDREW HUDSON
LB	GARRET GILLILAND	JORDAN WALLACE
LB	JAMAAL KEARSE	PRINCETON FUIMAONO
LB	CORT DENNISON*	THOMAS TUTOGI
CB	QUINTON RICHARDSON*	GREGORY DUCRE
SS	SEAN PARKER	WILL SHAMBURGER
FS	NATE FELLNER*	JUSTIN GLENN
CB	DESMOND TRUFANT*	ANTHONY GOBERN

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	ERIK FOLK*	
P	KIEL RASP*	WILL MAHAN
KR	KEVIN SMITH	JESSE CALLIER
PR	DEVIN AGUILAR	SEAN PARKER

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**101.1** RUSHING YARDS PER GAME IN 2009 AND '10 FOR CHRIS POLK, THE THIRD HUSKIES RUNNER WITH BACK-TO-BACK 1,000-YARD SEASONS.



FROM LEFT: ELAINE THOMPSON/AP; STEVEN BISIG/SOUTHCREEK GLOBAL/ZUMA PRESS; JED JACOBSON; ELAINE THOMPSON/AP



## KEY RETURNEES

### WR JERMAINE KEARSE SENIOR

As one of the Pac-12's best talents, Kearse needs to be consistent. Despite tying for the conference lead with 12 TD catches, he was held out of the end zone or had 53 receiving yards or fewer in nine games.

### RB CHRIS POLK JUNIOR

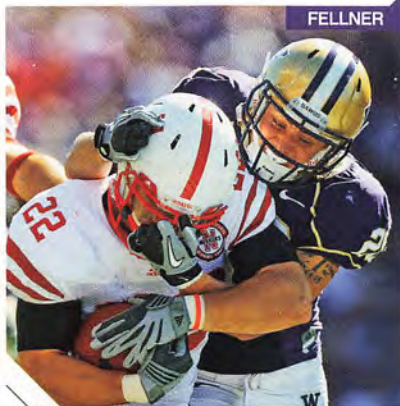
His 1,415 yards last year was second in the conference, and his final four games (685 yards, five TDs, 6.4 yards per carry) portend even bigger numbers. With the change at quarterback, the Huskies will need more of the same—or better—from Polk.

### CB QUINTON RICHARDSON SENIOR

The Huskies' best shutdown cornerback has the athleticism to play with any Pac-12 wideout. Richardson doesn't rack up stats—QB's know to keep the ball away from him—but is always a threat on D.

### FS NATE FELLNER JUNIOR

In 2010, his first season as a starter, the Huskies' pass defense improved from seventh in the conference to second. Fellner's role was more than coincidental, as he led the unit in interceptions (five) and pass deflections (13).



## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### DE JOSH SHIRLEY FRESHMAN

After a redshirt year, ready to answer the call of duty

The young rush end hasn't played a snap for the Huskies yet, but according to Steve Sarkisian, he's "got a real knack for getting to the passer." The 6' 3" 225-pounder from Kaiser High in Fontana, Calif., had 105 tackles as a senior and was one of 12 linebackers nationwide named a semifinalist for the high school Butkus Award.

## TOP RECRUIT

### TE AUSTIN SEFERIAN-JENKINS FRESHMAN

Big and nimble Evergreen native ready to step in

Built like a tackle at 6' 6" and 250 pounds, the top-ranked prospect in the state of Washington has the speed and athleticism to drive opposing coordinators crazy with matchup problems. He should contribute immediately, particularly in the red zone.

# COACH'S Q&A



## STEVE SARKISIAN

ON THE IMPROVING  
DEFENSE AND HIS  
QB'S WORK ETHIC

**SI:** Are either Keith Price or Nick Montana feeling pressure filling Jake Locker's shoes?

**SS:** They're not showing it if they are. Both of them have a good demeanor about themselves. Their teammates really respect them and their work ethic. They have earned the right to be in this position, and they've embraced it.

**SI:** SINCE LEAVING USC YOU'VE BEATEN IT TWICE IN A ROW. HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

**SS:** BEING FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, HAVING COACHED AT [USC] FOR SEVEN YEARS AND HAVING THE RESPECT FOR THE PLAYERS AND COACHES THAT I DO, IT'S BEEN VERY GRATIFYING.

**SI:** You had a three-game stretch last year when you were outscored 138–30 but then won your next four games. What changed?

**SS:** We got better up the middle, and we started playing better on the corners. Quinton Richardson and Desmond Trufant started shutting guys down in the secondary, and we were able to start playing man-to-man. It allowed us to get a push inside and create some uneasiness on the quarterback while stopping the run on first and second down.

**SI:** Your biggest concerns going into 2011?

**SS:** First is linebacker. We need to find guys who can play consistently. And then the offensive line, we need to find five guys we believe in and who we can grow with.







## BEWARE OF THIS DAWG

Much of Washington's hopes and fortunes rests on its defensive line's ferocious fixture, who returns leaner but no less meaner **BY RYAN HATCH**

ALAMEDA TA'AMU TOOK SEVERAL ANGRY, EXPLOSIVE STRIDES AND DISPOSED OF FOUR—count 'em, four—Cornhuskers before charging toward quarterback Taylor Martinez. Once Ta'amu had him in his grip, he bear-hugged him, violently spun him and body-slammed the QB to the ground. The ground shook. Martinez never stood a chance.

And that was one of Ta'amu's more gentle tackles. The one-man wrecking crew who has lined up every Saturday on the Huskies' D-line for the last three autumns has made a habit of engulfing running backs and quarterbacks just the way he did Martinez in last year's Holiday Bowl. In starting 37 games for UW, Ta'amu, a 6' 3", 330-pound bulldozer from Rainier Beach (Wash.) High, has produced 79 tackles—as well as roughly 1,371 bruised shoulders, legs and arms of opposing players. "He had a tremendous stretch run to end last year," Huskies coach Steve Sarkisian says, "and we couldn't block him during spring ball either."

Even against his own teammates, Ta'amu knows just one speed: Go. Washington's intrasquad scrimmages in April were full of monster hits from Ta'amu. And last season against eventual national runner-up Oregon he had a season-high seven tackles, then matched that a week later against Cal. Two quarters before that 10-yard sack of Nebraska's Martinez, Ta'amu picked up a fumble and scampered 14 yards to set up a Huskies touchdown.

But his time in Seattle hasn't been all gravy. Gravy may have actually been the problem. Ta'amu struggled to keep his weight down when he arrived on campus in 2008; he ballooned to nearly 375 pounds (though he was never listed higher than 348) in his freshman year and struggled to maintain a healthy playing weight. By sophomore year he was down to 345, then played last season at his current weight, 330. But the transformation took time. He ate salad and salmon. Less red meat. Coaches made him run extra after practice. Eventually he realized that he wouldn't have to keep running those grueling sprints if he could keep his

weight down. So he did, and the difference on the field is significant. "I can last longer," Ta'amu told *The Seattle Times*. "More than five plays." This year he's in even better shape than he was last season. "He looks great," Sarkisian says. "He's strong and quick and agile for a big man. All that came from him embracing the work ethic needed to get where he is now."

Where he is now is smack-dab in the middle of a defense that will largely determine the fate of the 2011 Huskies season. UW's scheme on D employs Ta'amu in several different spots, but he prefers



**EXTRA POINT TO GET DOWN TO FIGHTING WEIGHT, TA'AMU INITIALLY SWORE OFF RICE, A STAPLE FOOD IN HIS SAMOAN HERITAGE.**

Ta'amu had 1½ sacks and five tackles for loss in 2010.

noseguard. "He loves to be right up on that center," Sarkisian says. "Loves those one-on-one matchups." But as Ta'amu has seen, those one-on-one matchups become one-on-two, -three and even -four as blockers try to fend him off. No matter. With the quickness in Ta'amu's hands and feet, few Pac-12 teams will have an answer for the former high school shot-putter who finished fourth in the state as a junior.

Sarkisian says that Ta'amu, one of several Polynesian players on the Huskies' roster, has grown into a leader. ("He's a real fatherly figure to those guys," he says.) "We're playing better because of him," the coach says. "He's really had an impact on us changing as a program."

That's an impact that opposing quarterbacks have surely felt. □



# WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS

Finally working with a fully stocked roster, the Cougars' coach warns not to underestimate his team. This season he might not be crying Wulff **BY GEORGE DOHRMANN**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Paul Wulff (4th year)

5-32 (2-25 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Todd Sturdy

**CO-DEFENSIVE COORDINATORS**

Chris Ball, Jody Sears

**2010 RECORD** 2-10

(1-8, 10th in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**

Offense 7, Defense 7

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**

6, 5, 2, 1, 2

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 117 (10)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 42 (6)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 92 (8)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 115 (10)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 104 (9)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 118 (10)

IN THE SECOND-TO-LAST GAME OF 2010, WASHINGTON STATE went to Oregon State and defeated the Beavers 31-14. That win was either a fluke—one of only two for the Cougars—or a harbinger of better days ahead for a program that has been under massive renovation.

"That game was important, not only because we won but also how we won," says fourth-year coach Paul Wulff. "We put it together and played well in all facets. [And] it was more than that game. If you look at our last three, we were ahead versus Cal and blew that game, then we beat Oregon State. We had three weeks off before the Apple Cup against Washington, and that actually hurt us because we had some rust in the first half. But we still almost won. So it wasn't just Oregon State. We were getting better and better."

Wulff isn't just grasping for positives; the numbers suggest that Washington State might finally be able to compete. Due to departures, Academic Progress Rate deductions and the 25-per-year scholarship limit, the Cougars have played with an incomplete deck for years.

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW

PAC-12 NORTH



**THE BIG IF** CAN A DEFENSE THAT ALLOWED 35.8 POINTS PER GAME IN 2010 PULL ITSELF TOGETHER AND RELIEVE PRESSURE ON THE OFFENSE?

Linebacker Sekope Kaufusi is a rare bright spot on the Cougars' D.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

3 IDAHO STATE

10 UNLV

17 AT SAN DIEGO STATE

### OCTOBER

1 AT COLORADO

8 AT UCLA

15 STANFORD

22 OREGON STATE (at CenturyLink Field)

29 AT OREGON

### NOVEMBER

5 AT CALIFORNIA

12 ARIZONA STATE

19 UTAH

29 AT WASHINGTON (at CenturyLink Field)

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Making the most of a relatively soft early schedule could give the Cougars the morale they need to see themselves as bowl contenders.

They had only 72 scholarship players (out of a possible 85) in 2008, 73 in 2009 and 77 in 2010. "I hear USC complaining about having only 75, but I'll tell you that our 75 has never been USC's 75," Wulff says.

Now, with an (almost) full allotment of scholarship players, including experienced returnees such as quarterback Jeff Tuel and defensive end Travis Long, Washington State should be better—and maybe good enough to sneak into a bowl game for the first time since 2003.

"I look at our schedule and see not only six winnable games but six games we *should* win," says Tuel. "We've been down for a few years, but we feel it is time to make that jump."

The offensive line needs to play much better—the Cougars were the worst rushing team in the conference in 2010 and allowed 51 sacks. Also, expect more shootouts than defensive battles given Washington State's troubles stopping both the run and the pass last year. Still, there is hope in Pullman for the first time in a while.

"In 2008, my first year, we were not good enough to win in the Big Sky [Conference]," says Wulff. "Now the pieces are there for us to be competitive with any team we play."

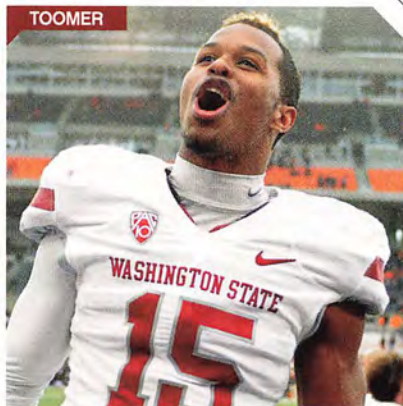
Freshman phenom Marquess Wilson averaged 83.8 receiving yards a game.

KEITH BIRMINGHAM/SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TRIBUNE/ZUMA PRESS (RIGHT); STEVE CONNER/ICON SMI









TOOMER

## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	JEFF TUEL*	MARSHALL LOBBESTAEI
RB	LOGWONE MITZ	RICKEY GALVIN
WR	MARQUESS WILSON*	BOBBY RATLIFF
WR	JARED KARSTETTER*	KRISTOFF WILLIAMS
WR	ISIAH BARTON	GINO SIMONE
TE	ANDREI LINTZ	AARON DUNN
LT	DAVID GONZALEZ*	JAKE RODGERS
LG	JOHN FULLINGTON*	TYSON PENCER
C	ANDREW ROXAS	TAYLOR MEIGHEN
RG	B.J. GUERRA*	ELLIOTT BOSCH
RT	WADE JACOBSON*	RICO FORBES

### DEFENSE

DE	TRAVIS LONG*	SKYLAR STORMO
DT	KALAFITONI POLE	JUSTIN CLAYTON
DT	ANTHONY LAURENZI	BRANDON RANKIN*
DE	IAN KNIGHT	JORDAN PU'U ROBINSON
LB	SEKOPE KAUFUSI	DARRYL MONROE
LB	MIKE LEDGERWOOD	C.J. MIZELL*
LB	ALEX HOFFMAN-ELLIS*	DARREN MARKLE
CB	NOLAN WASHINGTON*	BRANDON GOLDEN
SS	DEONE BUCANNON*	ANTHONY CARPENTER
FS	TYREE TOOMER*	CASEY LOCKER
CB	DAMANTE HORTON	AIRE JUSTIN

### SPECIAL TEAMS

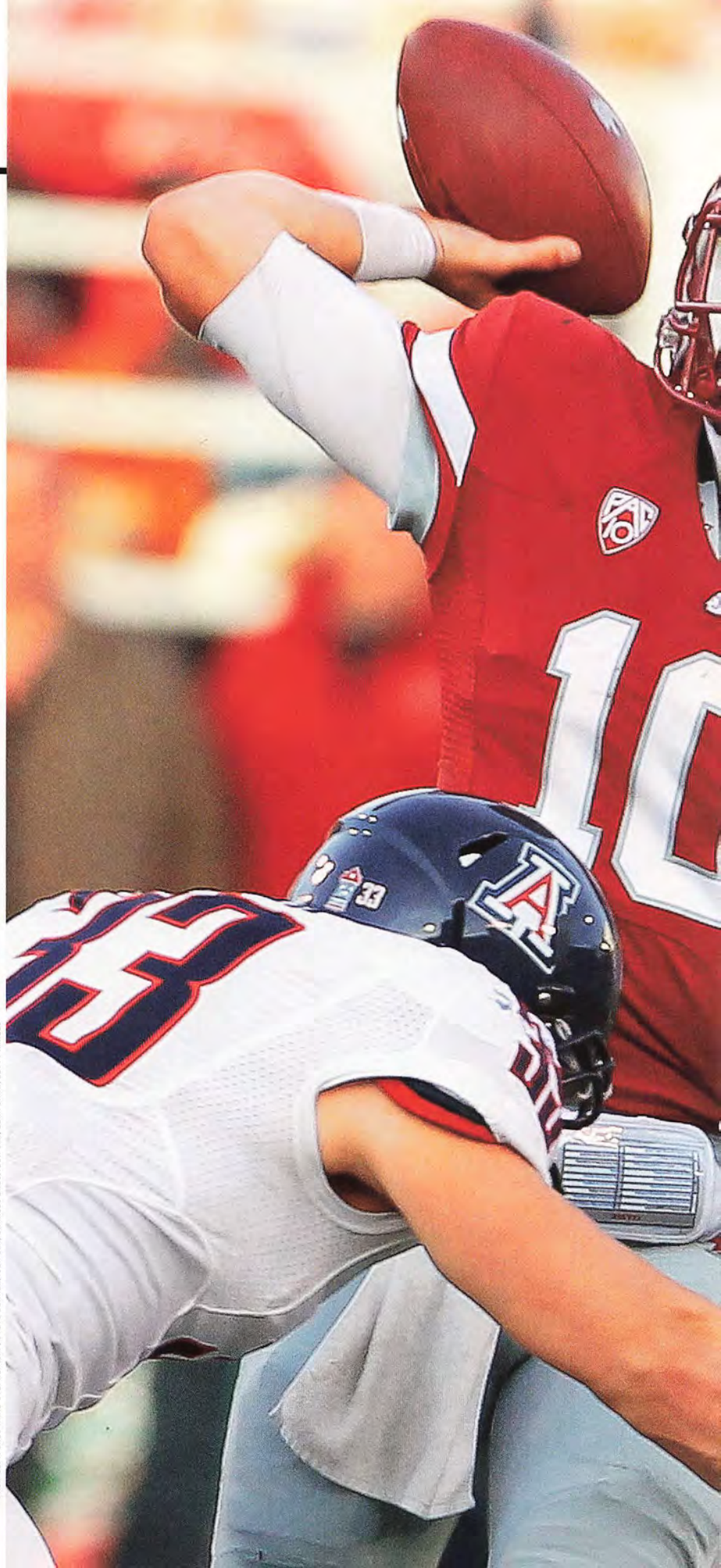
K	ANDREW FURNEY*	ALEX GAUPER
P	DAN WAGNER	
KR	ISIAH BARTON*	AIRE JUSTIN
PR	AIRE JUSTIN*	ISIAH BARTON

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**48** TIMES JEFF TUEL WAS SACKED IN 2010, MOST IN THE FBS. TUEL HAS BEEN SACKED AT LEAST TWICE IN EACH OF HIS 18 CAREER GAMES.

FROM LEFT: GREG WAHL/STEPHENSAP; STEVE CONNELL/CON SMI; CHARLES BAUS/CON SMI; EZRA SHAW/GETTY IMAGES







## KEY RETURNEES

### LB ALEX HOFFMAN-ELLIS SENIOR

Coach Paul Wulff believes the 6' 1" 241-pounder, who had more than 80 tackles in each of the last two seasons, will get even better in 2011. The reason? More talent around him, thus freeing him up to make plays.

### QB JEFF TUEL JUNIOR

The veteran has solid decision-making skills and mechanics, and he finally has decent wideouts and an offensive line that won't leave him running for his life. Expect to see more performances like his 298-yard, three-TD showing in last season's Apple Cup.

### WR MARQUESS WILSON SOPHOMORE

He broke out last season with 55 receptions for 1,006 yards and six touchdowns, and he spent the summer developing even more of a connection with Tuel. Don't be surprised if he is one of the nation's elite wide receivers by season's end.

### RG B.J. GUERRA SENIOR

The preseason All-Pac-12 second-team selection, one of the few Cougars to predate Wulff's arrival as coach, is the best player on an offensive line that improved late in 2010.



## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### LB SEKOPE KAUFUSI SOPHOMORE

In a new position, a possible star in the making

One of many young players on defense, Kaufusi moved from defensive end to linebacker midway through last season and started to find his way. His statistics from 2010 won't wow anyone (22 tackles), but he is 6' 3" and 233 pounds and one of the team's better athletes. The native of Palo Alto, Calif., shone during spring drills.

## TOP RECRUIT

### LB CHESTER SU'A FRESHMAN

Washington State plays finders keepers

The 6' 2" 215-pounder stayed committed to the Cougars even after Oregon, UCLA, Washington and others realized his elite athleticism and potential and made late pushes to sign him. If he is not a starter by the first game, he could be by midseason.

# COACH'S Q&A



## PAUL WULFF

ON SOME ENTICING NEW FACILITIES AND THE HEAT OF HIS SEAT

**SI:** Can you give us an overview of the improvements scheduled to be built?

**PW:** In the back of the [south] end zone will be a new press box, luxury boxes and more. Construction should start after this season and be completed in time for the 2012 season. Then there is a 100,000-square-foot football operations building that will house everything the players need. That should be done by 2013.

**SI:** HOW IMPORTANT ARE THOSE PROJECTS?

**PW:** [THEY] SHOULD MAKE OUR STADIUM AND OUR FACILITY ONE OF THE NICEST IN THE CONFERENCE. THAT EYE-CATCHER IS IMPORTANT IN RECRUITING.

**SI:** So it's the Oregon model: Build it and they will come.

**PW:** Bill Moos, our athletic director, worked at Oregon [and] helped get those facilities built, and you see how that program has taken off. For Washington State to be where we want it in this conference now, we needed to make improvements.

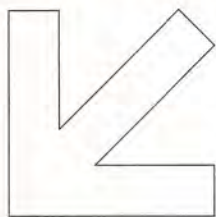
**SI:** You are one of the coaches often mentioned as "on the hot seat." Is that fair?

**PW:** I understand why people say that. We haven't won the last few years, and someone is going to take the hits. But the people here understand what we inherited. The goal is to [become] a consistent seven-, eight-, nine-win team, and to do that we need veterans, fourth-year juniors and fifth-year seniors. We are just starting to get those.









# THE STRONG AND SILENT TYPE

The Washington native is a tough guy who's loyal to his program, but don't ask him about it. He'd rather let his play do the talking **BY GEORGE DOHRMANN**

TRAVIS LONG LIKES DOING INTERVIEWS ABOUT AS MUCH AS HE LIKES BEING PANCAKED by two offensive linemen. He finds preseason interviews—before a single snap has been played—especially pointless, which is why he sighs mightily when asked if he wants the hardest question first or last. “Give it to me last, I guess,” he says.

The easy questions cover Long's development into one of the better defensive ends in the Pac-12. A 6' 4" junior, Long came to Pullman from Gonzaga Prep in Spokane in 2009 weighing 245 pounds with a maximum bench press of a little more than 200 pounds. He had no business playing a single game that season; at any other school in the conference he would have redshirted.

But Long arrived when the program was at its lowest point—the '09 recruiting class was the first put together entirely by coach Paul Wulff—and he was one of two freshmen who started a game that season out of necessity.

“Coach Wulff came in here, and we were thin everywhere,” Long says. “There were practices where the starters took almost all the reps. It was not what you want to have to do, but we didn't have any other choice. The best players had to play.”

Long ticks off the negatives from being forced into action too soon: He took a beating in every game of the '09 season, he burned a season of eligibility, and he felt the sting of going 1–11 that year. It wasn't fun, and yet at the same time Long wouldn't be where he is now, a standout who is on the NFL's radar, if he hadn't taken those lumps in that inaugural season.

“It helped me understand how hard I had to work, in the weight room and on the field, to play at this level,” he says.

As a freshman Long made 47 tackles, including two sacks. In 2010, playing closer to his current weight of about 260 pounds (with a bench press of up to 340), he had 51 tackles and a team-high four sacks. His numbers are expected to jump again this year as the Cougars' defensive unit matures.

“Travis is not a big talker. He is just a very serious guy, very prideful, with a high level of toughness and a highly competitive nature, going 100 percent all the time,” Wulff says. “He is not going to wow you with blazing speed, not going to come off edge, but he will always be physical and give you the effort against the run and the pass.”

Wulff believes Long will blossom further under new defensive-line coach Todd Howard, who previously worked at UCLA and tutored 2009 Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year Brian Price.

“I think Todd is really going to help Travis hone



**EXTRA POINT** AT GONZAGA PREP, LONG PLAYED FOUR YEARS OF VARSITY HOOPS IN ADDITION TO STARRING FOR BULLPUPS FOOTBALL.

Long (three pass breakups in 2010) thwarted QBs.

his skills, especially his pass-rushing techniques,” Wulff says.

Long is exactly the kind of player Washington State needs to have in abundance, Wulff says, an in-state kid who is tough and committed to the rebuilding of the program. But Long had other options, which leads to the tough question.

Long chose to come to Washington State over Boise State. In other words, instead of losing 21 games over the last two seasons, he could have won 26 with the Broncos. Does he regret his choice?

“I've never doubted it, not once,” he insists. “I felt a sense of brotherhood when I came here, and that feeling is still here. This is the team I want to be part of. I want to be part of getting this program back to where it was.” □





Cornerback Aaron Hester and the Bruins will try to bring down wideout Robert Woods and the Trojans in the Nov. 26 season finale at the L.A. Coliseum. USC has won the last four matchups.





# PAC-12

# SOUTH



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GARY A. VASILEVICH/REUTERS



# ARIZONA WILDCATS

Fresh faces on both sides of the ball must catch on quickly for a team that has no time to dwell on last year's late-season collapse **BY MATTHEW KITCHEN**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Mike Stoops (8th year)  
40-45 (27-34 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Seth Littrell

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Tim Kish

**2010 RECORD** 7-6  
(4-5, tied for 5th in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**  
Offense 4, Defense 7

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
6, 5, 8, 8, 7

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 88 (8)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 9 (1)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 24 (3)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 33 (4)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 46 (4)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 33 (3)

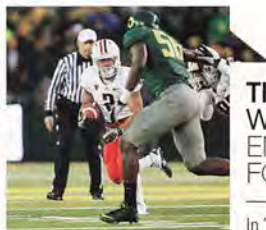
CONSECUTIVE BOWL BERTHS IN 2008 AND '09 AND A 4-0 START IN 2010 had Arizona ranked in the top 10 and Wildcats coach Mike Stoops thinking he'd finally built a contender in his seventh season in Tucson. Then reality hit: Arizona dropped five straight games (and six of nine) to close the season, including losses to Pac-10 rivals Stanford, USC and Oregon and a 36-10 drubbing by Oklahoma State in the Alamo Bowl.

After a season opener against Northern Arizona, the Wildcats face those same four teams at the start of 2011, which will offer the Arizona faithful an early indication of whether their team is a contender or a pretender. "These teams all have great quarterbacks coming back, so we have a tremendous challenge in front of us," says Stoops.

The offense will once again lean heavily on the prolific right arm of 6' 5" quarterback Nick Foles (3,191 yards and 20 TDs passing in 2010), who led a unit that last year averaged 307.7 yards per game. His most dangerous playmaker should be 6' 4" Juron Criner, who in '10 was a second-team All-America and ranked first in the Pac-10 in receptions

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW

### PAC-12 SOUTH



**THE BIG IF** CAN AN OFFENSIVE LINE WITH FIVE NEW STARTERS OPEN ENOUGH RUNNING LANES AND GIVE FOLES TIME TO THROW?

In '10, Keola Antolin averaged 51.4 yards behind a veteran O-line.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 NORTHERN ARIZONA
- 8 AT OKLAHOMA STATE
- 17 STANFORD
- 24 OREGON

### OCTOBER

- 1 AT USC
- 8 AT OREGON STATE
- 20 UCLA
- 29 AT WASHINGTON

### NOVEMBER

- 5 UTAH
- 12 AT COLORADO
- 19 AT ARIZONA STATE
- 26 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

Arizona better be cat-quick out of the gate, with three September games against potential top 10 teams—Oklahoma State, Stanford and Oregon.

and receiving yards. Criner, however, may miss the season with an undisclosed medical condition. This season the offense adds another 6' 4" wideout, Dan Buckner, who caught 45 passes and scored four touchdowns in '09 at Texas before transferring to Tucson after the season.

If defenses focus their attention on the outside playmakers, slot receiver David Douglas, an excellent route runner, could be potent underneath. He'll be the likely target when Foles is forced to react quickly behind an offensive line whose five starters have exactly one career start (by Kyle Quinn) among them.

The Wildcats will also rebuild from scratch on the defensive line after losing three ends to the NFL. Versatile C.J. Parish will move from linebacker to one end spot and team with speedy pass rusher Mohammed Usman to provide pressure from the edge.

Even with fresh faces on both sides of the ball, Arizona brings back a swagger resembling a team ready to compete for a conference title. "There's no reason we can't win the Pac-12," says Criner. "We've got a tough first half of the schedule. If we come out of that looking good, we can take the whole thing."

With Foles (8) and Criner, the offense doesn't lack talent at the skill positions.









PUTTON

## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	NICK FOLES*	MATT SCOTT
RB	KEOLA ANTOLIN*	DANIEL JENKINS
WR	JURON CRINER*	AUSTIN HILL
WR	DAVID DOUGLAS*	DAN BUCKNER
WR	DAVE ROBERTS	TERRENCE MILLER
TE	JACK BAUCUS	DREW ROBINSON
LT	MICKEY BAUCUS	TRENT SPURGEON
LG	CHRIS PUTTON	CARTER LEES
C	KYLE QUINN	ADDISON BACHMAN
RG	TRACE BISKIN	ERIC BENDER-RAMSAY
RT	FABBIANS EBBELE	SHANE ZINK

### DEFENSE

DE	C.J. PARISH	DAN PETTINATO
DT	JUSTIN WASHINGTON*	WILLIE MOBLEY
DT	SIONE TUIHALAMAKA	KIRIFI TAULA
DE	MOHAMMED USMAN	DAN PETTINATO
LB	DAVID LOPEZ	BILAL MUHAMMED
LB	DEREK EARLS*	BILAL MUHAMMED
LB	PAUL VASSALLO*	BILAL MUHAMMED
CB	JONATHAN MCKNIGHT	DERRICK RAINEY
SS	ROBERT GOLDEN*	JOURDAN GRANDON
FS	MARQUIS FLOWERS	JOSH ROBBINS
CB	TREVIN WADE*	SHAQUILLE RICHARDSON

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	ALEX ZENDEJAS*	JOHN BONANO
P	KYLE DUGANDZIC	ALEX ZENDEJAS
KR	GARIC WHARTON	DAVID DOUGLAS
PR	GARIC WHARTON	DAVID DOUGLAS

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**9** TOUCHDOWN CATCHES NEEDED BY JURON CRINER TO TIE THEOPOLIS BELL'S ARIZONA CAREER RECORD OF 30, SET FROM 1972 THROUGH '75.

FROM LEFT: LISA BLUMENFELD/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN W. McDONOUGH; BRANDON PARRY/SOUTHCREEK GLOBAL/ZUMA PRESS; DAMON HARVEY/CSM







## KEY RETURNEES

### WR DAVID DOUGLAS SENIOR

The team's most consistent receiver last season, with 52 receptions for 515 yards and 5 TDs, Douglas will be Nick Foles's safety valve underneath. Coach Mike Stoops says that this receiving corps—if Juron Criner is healthy—is the best he's had in Tucson.

### QB NICK FOLES SENIOR

Foles has thrown for 5,677 yards and 39 touchdowns in two seasons at Arizona, but the 2011 Heisman dark horse was also sacked 23 times last season. This year, behind an inexperienced offensive line, Foles's ability to make quick decisions will be key.

### LB PAUL VASSALLO SENIOR

Vassallo led the D in tackles (104) last year and will be counted upon heavily this fall, with the departure of three linebackers and starter Jake Fisher not expected to return from a knee injury until late in the year.

### CB TREVIN WADE SENIOR

Despite an 85-yard interception return against Iowa, Wade was underwhelming in '10, taking a step backwards after nine picks in his first two years. "We need Trevin Wade to be the old Trevin Wade," says Stoops.



## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### FS MARQUIS FLOWERS SOPHOMORE

Young defensive back is blossoming into a playmaker

Last season was a rebuilding year for the Wildcats' secondary, and it was vulnerable to big plays. Flowers, who lettered in 13 games as a true freshman in 2010, inherits the job as the starting free safety and has the speed and range to thwart those deep balls. Stoops compares Flowers with Arizona's 2007 Jim Thorpe Award winner, Antoine Cason.

## TOP RECRUIT

### RB KA'DEEM CAREY FRESHMAN

Prolific high school back has the skills to step in

Carey racked up 5,702 yards and 82 TDs rushing for Canyon del Oro High in Tucson, displaying the combination of speed and power of elite running back recruits. His presence in the backfield may help open up the play-action pass for Foles.

# COACH'S Q&A



## MIKE STOOPS

GETS OFFENSIVE WITH THE RECEIVERS, QB AND O-LINE

**SI:** *Why could this be Arizona's best-ever passing attack?*

**MS:** We've got speed. We've got size. We've got route runners. Then you put Nick Foles on top of that, and he gives us a great opportunity to really utilize those receivers.

**SI:** WHAT IS YOUR TOUGHEST CHALLENGE THIS SEASON?

**MS:** THE START OF THE YEAR, WHEN WE PLAY FOUR TOP PROGRAMS IN A ROW. HOPEFULLY IT MOTIVATES OUR PLAYERS TO HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND BE PREPARED.

**SI:** *How has Foles improved this off-season?*

**MS:** Nick continues to get bigger and stronger. His mobility is better. He's become a much better athlete, and his pocket presence has improved. We took 32 sacks a year ago, so Nick and the offensive line, the running backs and the wide receivers all have to work together to make sure that doesn't happen again.

**SI:** *How difficult will that be with zero starters returning on the line?*

**MS:** The offensive line is our most inexperienced group, but we made progress this spring. They're going to have to improve every day from now until September.

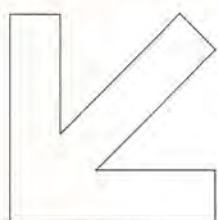
**SI:** *Your thoughts on the Pac-12 expansion?*

**MS:** We're excited. [Commissioner] Larry Scott has done a great job promoting the Pac-12. I don't think he's done yet.









# COMING BACK FOR ONE LAST RUSH?

Arizona's best playmaker returned to Tucson instead of moving to the NFL, but his status for this season is up in the air **BY MATTHEW KITCHEN**

JURON CRINER STOOD ON THE ARIZONA SIDELINE IN NOVEMBER 2007 AS THE CLOCK ticked down on a 34-24 upset of then No. 2 Oregon and fans pushed and shoved behind him in preparation to rush the Arizona Stadium field. But Criner wasn't in uniform or even on the team. As a highly sought-after senior receiver from Canyon Springs High in Las Vegas, Criner attended the game on a recruiting visit. When the clock ran out, he joined thousands of fans in celebration and knew right then that he wanted to be a Wildcat.

"Being part of the college atmosphere and being able to rush the field . . . that was the best thing I'd ever done in football," says Criner, who hauled in 25 touchdowns as a senior at Canyon Springs. "The win that night made the city come alive."

In his three years at Arizona the 6' 4", 215-pound Criner has similarly come alive, evolving from a top-flight recruit into an All-America talent. His 82 catches and 1,233 yards last season led the Pac-10, and his school-record-tying 11 touchdown catches helped complete one of the best seasons by a receiver in the program's 112-year history. Unsatisfied after losing the final five games of 2010, Criner opted to stay in Tucson for one more shot at the school's first Rose Bowl berth instead of heading to the NFL. He had been projected as a mid-round pick.

"I think it made [coach Mike Stoops's] day when I told him I was staying," Criner says. "I can only get better. I'm working on my hands. I'm running routes. I took into consideration things that people said I need to work on. I just want to be a better receiver."

In late June, however, news surfaced that Criner could miss the entire 2011 season because of an undisclosed medical condition. (School officials would not comment.) Losing Criner would be a huge blow, but he has already shown the toughness to overcome adversity. Early in training camp before last season, he collided with a teammate and suffered a concussion and facial contusion that forced him to miss much of camp. He didn't return until the week of the season opener, and coaches didn't expect him to be

at full strength. Nonetheless Criner played the whole game and had 10 catches for 176 yards and a TD.

If he makes it onto the field, Criner should profit from the addition of Dan Buckner, a transfer from Texas. Buckner averaged 73.5 yards receiving and caught four TDs in his first four games of '09 before his role diminished in the Longhorns' march to the BCS title game. Six days after the loss to Alabama, Buckner was arrested for criminal trespassing and was released from his scholarship. The following day he chose to transfer to Arizona.

"We're going to feed off each other," Criner says.



**EXTRA POINT** OVER THE LAST TWO SEASONS CRINER HAS 16 RUSHES FOR 129 YARDS TO GO ALONG WITH HIS BIG RECEIVING STATS.

Against Washington, Criner had 108 yards and a TD.

"I can benefit just from his presence. It switches up coverages. We want to be the best receiving corps in the country. We have depth. If I go down, there's someone who can step up and compete."

For all his talent and drive, Criner does his best to stay out of the limelight. He does not go out often, calls himself a "homebody" and loves Tucson for how close it is to his family in Las Vegas—as well as for its weather. "I do not like the cold," he says.

He prefers to be in the summer heat, working toward winning the Pac-12 South. He also wants to avenge last season's defeat to in-state rival Arizona State. "I want the Territorial Cup back," Criner says. "It belongs in Tucson."

If he and the Wildcats can bring it back, he'll have another reason to rush the field. □



# ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

Expectations are high in Tempe, where 19 starters are back from 2010 and have Sun Devils fans dreaming of the program's first BCS bowl berth **BY MATTHEW KITCHEN**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Dennis Erickson (5th year)

25-24 (17-19 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Noel Mazzone

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Craig Bray

**2010 RECORD** 6-6

(4-5, 6th in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK NR**

**RETURNING STARTERS**

Offense 11, Defense 8

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**

4, 10, 5, 4, 6

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 78 (7)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 15 (2)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 29 (5)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 16 (1)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 62 (8)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 57 (5)

ARIZONA STATE PLAYERS AND COACHES HEAR IT FROM FANS AND pundits every spring: the team could've been great last year, "if only. . ."

For example, if only the Sun Devils hadn't turned the ball over 23 times last season. If only they hadn't had a game-tying extra point at Wisconsin blocked. If only they hadn't missed a potential game-winning 41-yard field goal at USC. The fact that four of Arizona State's six losses came by a combined nine points has motivated the team. "It showed us all what a fine line it is between being 6-6 and being 10-2," offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone says. "It's a play here and there."

While coach Dennis Erickson doesn't dwell on the what-ifs—"it doesn't make a difference how close the games were . . . [we] still only won six"—the near misses have helped generate an excitement not usually felt around Tempe. The Sun Devils have 19 starters returning, and coinciding with the sense of optimism are redesigned uniforms and a new pitchfork logo on the helmet. The players have adopted the motto It's time, a reference to the fact that Arizona State has never reached a BCS bowl game.

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 SOUTH



**THE BIG IF** CAN THE SUN DEVILS' SPECIAL TEAMS HAVE A BOUNCE-BACK SEASON AND HELP TURN A SERIES OF CLOSE LOSSES LAST YEAR INTO WINS THIS YEAR?

Jamal Miles will be counted on heavily as a returner and receiver.

### SCHEDULE

#### SEPTEMBER

- 1 UC DAVIS
- 9 MISSOURI
- 17 AT ILLINOIS
- 24 USC

#### OCTOBER

- 1 OREGON STATE
- 8 AT UTAH
- 15 AT OREGON
- 29 COLORADO

#### NOVEMBER

- 5 AT UCLA
- 12 AT WASHINGTON STATE
- 19 ARIZONA
- 26 CAL

### 12

### SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The slate is front-loaded, with the toughest tests coming in the first seven games, including a possible Pac-12 title game preview at Oregon.

That goal is well within reach. The offense, with all five starting line-men back, is led by arguably the conference's best center, Garth Gerhart. He'll snap to 6' 8", 235-pound quarterback Brock Osweiler, who will run the team's pass-heavy spread offense. Osweiler spent the spring improving his accuracy (56.9% in 2010), and that could further strengthen the Sun Devils' already potent pass offense. On the ground Arizona State will rely on sophomore Deantre Lewis and junior Cameron Marshall, who combined for 5.5 yards per carry and 13 touchdowns last season.

The defense, which has eight starters back from a unit that ranked fifth in the Pac-10, will have to endure the loss of team leader and all-conference cornerback Omar Bolden, who tore the ACL in his left knee during spring practice. In Bolden's absence, junior middle linebacker Vontaze Burfict, who made a team-high 90 tackles in 2010, has stepped into the leadership void by running player meetings and setting an example with his commitment at off-season workouts.

"We just need to be consistent . . . more disciplined," Erickson says of what his Sun Devils need to do if they hope to vie for the Pac-12 South title. "You just have to get a break and see what happens."

The hard-hitting Burfict (7) leads a D that is loaded with experience.



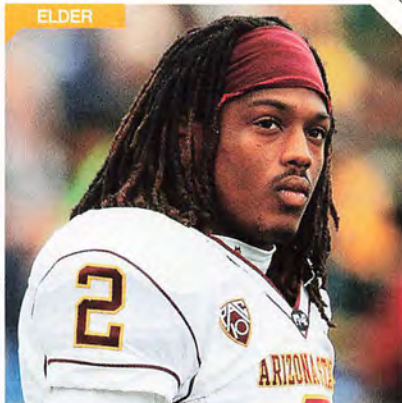
BRUCE YEUNG/SOUTHCREEK GLOBAL/ZUMA PRESS (RIGHT): DAVE STEPHENSON/ICON SM







ELDER



## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	BROCK OSWEILER	TAYLOR KELLY
RB	CAMERON MARSHALL*	DEANTRE LEWIS
WR	AARON PFLUGRAD	JAMAL MILES*
WR	KEVIN ANDERSON	JARRID BRYANT
WR	GERELL ROBINSON*	CHRISTOPHER COYLE
WR	MIKE WILLIE*	GEORGE BELL
LT	EVAN FINKENBERG*	JAMIL DOUGLAS
LG	MIKE MARCISZ*	ADAM TELLO
C	GARTH GERHART*	KODY KOEBENSKY
RG	ANDREW SAMPSON*	BRICE SCHWAB
RT	DAN KNAPP*	ADERIOUS SIMMONS*

### DEFENSE

DE	JUNIOR ONYEALI	JAMAAR JARRETT*
DT	WILLIAM SUTTON	TOA TUITEA
DT	BO MOOS	COREY ADAMS
DE	JAMES BROOKS*	GREG SMITH
LB	SHELLY LYONS	COLIN PARKER
LB	VONTAZE BURFICT*	CARL BRADFORD
LB	BRANDON MAGEE*	OLIVER AARON
CB	DEVON CARR	DEVAN SPANN
SS	CLINT FLOYD*	SHANE MCCULLEN
FS	EDDIE ELDER*	ALDEN DARBY
CB	OSAHON IRABOR*	RONALD KENNEDY

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	ALEX GAROUTTE	PARKER FLYNN
P	JOSH HUBNER	
KR	JAMAL MILES*	KYLE MIDDLEBROOKS
PR	JAMAL MILES*	KYLE MIDDLEBROOKS

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**69.6** PENALTY YARDS A GAME ASSESSED AGAINST THE SUN DEVILS IN 2010, THE MOST IN THE PAC-10 AND FOURTH MOST AMONG BCS SCHOOLS.



FROM LEFT: DAVE STEPHENSON/ICM SM; MIKE MCCINNIS/ICM SM; JOHN BIEVER, MATT YORK/AP





## KEY RETURNÉES

### LB VONTAZE BURFICT JUNIOR

The potential All-America has taken on a new leadership role and has worked to cut down on his penalties and mental mistakes. He's a big reason why Arizona State is considered a contender in 2011.

### LB BRANDON MAGEE SENIOR

Magee started slowly last season but had big games when it mattered, making 13 tackles apiece against Cal, USC and Arizona. Offenses that focus too much on handling Burfict, Magee's high school teammate, may get burned by Magee.

### RB CAMERON MARSHALL JUNIOR

In the team's pass-heavy offense last season, Marshall rushed for 787 yards and nine TDs on 150 carries. He averaged 7.0 yards per rush at home, and that kind of production will be key in home dates against Missouri, USC and Arizona this year.

### CB DEVERON CARR JUNIOR

Now the top corner after the season-ending injury to Omar Bolden, Carr has the size (5' 11", 193 pounds) and speed (4.34) to battle receivers. He leads a secondary that is the D's biggest weakness.



CARR

## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### WR GERELL ROBINSON SENIOR

Former top recruit is trending upward

The 6' 4", 222-pound Robinson has great potential but has struggled to meet the expectations that came with being a highly rated recruit. His 2010 stats (29 catches, 387 yards, 5 TDs) were more than '08 and '09 combined, and coach Dennis Erickson believes he and Brock Osweiler could become the Pac-12's top duo.

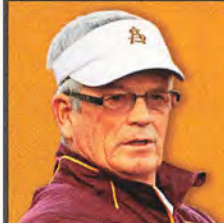
## TOP RECRUIT

### DE MO LATU FRESHMAN

Four-star lineman has the ability to contribute

With eight defensive starters coming back, Arizona State won't need much from its freshmen in 2011. But Latu, a four-star prospect from Gilbert, Ariz., has size (6' 3", 306), speed and strength (he bench-presses 405 pounds) that could allow him to make an immediate impact.

# COACH'S Q&A



## DENNIS ERICKSON

TALKS ABOUT BEING THE TEAM TO BEAT IN THE PAC-12 SOUTH

**SI:** How do you feel about the new uniforms?

**DE:** I'm jacked about them. They're fun. I know our players are really excited, and our recruits like them. It gives guys some adrenaline. Uniforms don't win games, but a lot of guys play good when they look good and feel good.

**SI:** DOES HAVING 19 RETURNING STARTERS EQUAL SUCCESS?

**DE:** IS EXPERIENCE GOOD OR BAD WHEN YOU GO 6-6? HOPEFULLY OUR GUYS COMING BACK UNDERSTAND THE MISTAKES THEY MADE.

**SI:** What does 6' 8" quarterback Brock Osweiler, the new starter, bring to the table?

**DE:** He can throw it over the top of people. He can see defenses. He runs 4.7 in the 40, and he's 235 pounds, so when people try to tackle him, they better bring him down. Having been in this offense for two years, he's making better decisions than he did last fall.

**SI:** Do you think the Pac-12 suffers from an East Coast bias?

**DE:** I don't buy it. If our league plays well, everyone will know who we are.

**SI:** How do you handle expectations of being the Pac-12 South favorite?

**DE:** Anybody can beat anybody in the Pac-12, so for anyone to be a favorite is ridiculous. But we've worked very hard to build this program, and we're a better football team this year than we've been since I came to Tempe. If you stay healthy and get some breaks, you have a chance.







# THE ACCIDENTAL QUARTERBACK

Last November this supersized signal-caller was a lightly used backup with plans to play basketball. Now he's the team's starter **BY MATTHEW KITCHEN**

AT 6' 8" AND 235 POUNDS, ARIZONA STATE QUARTERBACK BROCK OSWEILER IS OFTEN mistaken for a Sun Devils basketball player—and last November he almost became one. Feeling underutilized after having played mostly in mop-up duty for almost two seasons, Osweiler, who in 2006 committed to play basketball at Gonzaga, requested permission to meet with Arizona State hoops coach Herb Sendek about playing forward for the Sun Devils. "I have a fire to compete, and I wanted to do more," Osweiler explains. Coach Dennis Erickson obliged, and plans were made for Osweiler to head to the hardwood as soon as football ended.

But on Nov. 13, with the football team at 4–6 and in the late stages of a forgettable season, starting quarterback Steven Threet went down with a concussion against UCLA, the fourth of his career, which ended his playing days. Osweiler dropped his clipboard, grabbed his helmet and entered the game. Down 17–0 in the first quarter Osweiler passed for 380 yards and four touchdowns (and added a 15-yard score with his legs), rallying Arizona State to a 55–34 win. An emotional, 30–29 double-overtime win the next week against rival Arizona, in which Osweiler led the team to 14 fourth-quarter points, cemented his spot as the Sun Devils' starter for 2011 and effectively ended Osweiler's basketball experiment.

Instead of basking in the glow of his 2010 victories, Osweiler, a junior, spent the off-season working toward '11. He built strength in the weight room and practiced yoga. He also worked on shortening his release—a common problem for quarterbacks his height. "He's spent a lot of time changing his throwing motion," Erickson says of Osweiler, who completed 56.8% of his passes last year. "He's getting the ball out of his hand a lot better than he did. He's much more accurate now." In May, Osweiler flew to Denver for a boxing camp to improve his footwork and develop his "punch stance," which offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone describes as a way for quarterbacks to

transfer the weight between their feet and add velocity to their throws.

Once ruled out of playing quarterback in his Pop Warner league in Kalispell, Mont., for being too large (he played offensive tackle), Osweiler now realizes that his unique dimensions can be an asset. "My size and athletic ability have brought something to the football field that hasn't been seen in a long time," he says. Osweiler is often compared with 6' 5", 241-pound Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who is difficult to drag down even with multiple defenders draped on his back. And



**EXTRA POINT** OSWEILER TURNED DOWN SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS FROM ALABAMA, FLORIDA STATE AND STANFORD TO ATTEND ARIZONA STATE

The 6' 8" Osweiler can even make plays with his feet.

much like Roethlisberger, Osweiler has 4.7 speed that makes him even more dangerous when he slips out of the pocket, such as when he bolted up the middle for that 15-yard touchdown against UCLA.

"He's got the ability to make my bad plays good," Mazzone says. "He creates things. He gets himself out of trouble and makes plays with his feet."

Osweiler's confidence to improvise is mirrored by his confidence off the field. He is undaunted, for example, by the team's tough 2011 schedule. "We've played in hostile environments," he says. "We've been to Georgia. We've been to Wisconsin. We've been to the loudest, most intense environments in the country. That's not going to throw us off."

Spoken like a man who knows what he can do with a football, not a basketball, in his hands. □



# COLORADO BUFFALOES

Optimism is a mile high in Boulder, where a new coach (Jon Embree) and a new conference (the Pac-12) are, at last, providing new hope for the future **BY RYAN HATCH**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Jon Embree (1st year)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Eric Bieniemy

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**

Greg Brown

**2010 RECORD**

5-7 (2-6, 5th in Big 12 North)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**

Offense 7, Defense 5

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**

2, 6, 5, 3, 5

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Big 12)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 85 (11)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 59 (8)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 79 (10)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 48 (4)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 110 (9)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 83 (6)

JON EMBREE WAS ANNOUNCED AS THE 24TH COACH OF THE BUFFALOES on a crisp autumn day last Dec. 6 in a press conference at Folsom Field, with the beautiful Flatirons formations in the background. But hours before the media circus and the handshakes with school officials in front of the cameras, Embree met privately with his new players.

"This is going to be very hard, what we're about to do, but it will be worth it," he told them. "When you accomplish something in your life—or any success you have—when you look back on it, it probably wasn't easy."

Resuscitating this once-proud Buffaloes program will not be easy. In the last five seasons with Dan Hawkins as coach, Colorado went 19-39. The Buffaloes were 5-25 away from Folsom Field. Interest in the program waned. Something had to change.

And something did. The embattled Hawkins is out, and Embree—a tight end for Colorado from 1983 through '86 who was plucked from the Redskins—is in to bring the Buffs back from the depths of irrelevance.

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 SOUTH



**THE BIG IF** CAN THE BUFFS PRESSURE QUARTERBACKS ENOUGH TO STABILIZE A POROUS PASS DEFENSE THAT LOST TWO KEY PLAYERS TO THE NFL?

Major is showing no ill effects from ACL surgery three years ago.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

3 AT HAWAII

10 CAL

17 AT COLORADO STATE (in Denver)

24 AT OHIO STATE

### OCTOBER

1 WASHINGTON STATE

8 AT STANFORD

15 AT WASHINGTON

22 OREGON

29 AT ARIZONA STATE

### NOVEMBER

4 USC

12 ARIZONA

19 AT UCLA

26 AT UTAH



## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Buffs' inaugural year in the Pac-12 will be a difficult one. They could be underdogs in all but two games—Colorado State and Washington State.

Winning may not happen right away, but with 12 starters returning, Colorado could surprise doubters. Despite losing cornerbacks Jalil Brown and Jimmy Smith to the NFL, the defense has enough talent to keep the Buffaloes in most games. Free safety Ray Polk will be one of the top athletes on the field at all times, and tough linebacker Jon Major will likely be among the best at his position in the conference.

On offense quarterback Tyler Hansen is finally the full-time starter (after three seasons going back and forth with Cody Hawkins) and will be throwing to wideouts Toney Clemons and Paul Richardson, who are dangerous against man coverage. The running game needs improvement, and that might be difficult with the offensive line losing two starters, including Outland Trophy finalist Nate Solder. New offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy—who came from the Vikings, for whom he was running backs coach—has his work cut out for him in his first season ever as an offensive coordinator.

With the arrival of the 45-year-old Embree, who was an assistant at Colorado and UCLA as well as with the Chiefs and the Redskins, there are high hopes in Boulder for the first time in a long while.

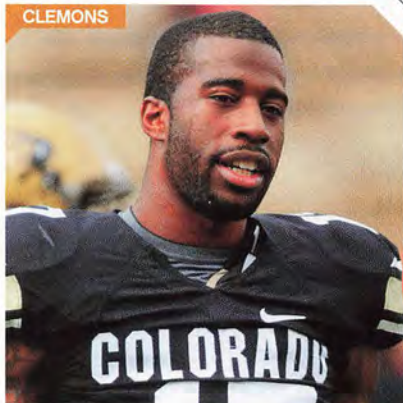
Rodney Stewart will be challenged running behind a questionable O-line.







CLEMONS



## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	TYLER HANSEN*	NICK HIRSCHMAN
TB	RODNEY STEWART*	BRIAN LOCKRIDGE
FB	EVAN HARRINGTON	TYLER AHLES
WR	TONY CLEMONS*	NELSON SPRUCE
WR	PAUL RICHARDSON	KEENAN CANTY
TE	RYAN DEEHAN*	DAVAUGHN THORNTON
LT	DAVID BAKHTIARI*	ALEX LEWIS
LG	ETHAN ADKINS*	KAIWI CRABB
C	DANIEL MUNYER	SHAWN DANIELS
RG	RYAN MILLER*	RYAN DANNEWITZ
RT	JACK HARRIS	SIGNE TAU

### DEFENSE

DE	JOSH HARTIGAN*	NICK KASA
DT	WILL PERICAK*	CURTIS CUNNINGHAM*
NT	CONRAD OBI	NATE BONSU
DE	CHIDERA UZODIRIBE	DAVID GOLDBERG
LB	DOUGLAS RIPPY	DERRICK WEBB
LB	PATRICK MAHNKE	LOWELL WILLIAMS
LB	JON MAJOR*	LILLO NOBRIGA
CB	PARKER ORMS	AYODEJI OLATOYE
FS	RAY POLK*	TERREL SMITH
SS	ANTHONY PERKINS	TRAVIS SANDERSFELD
CB	ARTHUR JAFFEE	SHERRARD HARRINGTON

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	JUSTIN CASTOR	WILL OLIVER
P	ZACH GROSSNICKLE	MARK BRUNDAGE
KR-PR	PAUL RICHARDSON	RODNEY STEWART

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**259.8** PASSING YARDS PER GAME ALLOWED BY THE BUFFALOES LAST SEASON, THE 11TH WORST AMONG THE 120 FBS TEAMS.



FROM LEFT: JUSTIN BRADFORD/ICON SM; MATT MCCLAIN/AP; JUSTIN BRADFORD/ICON SM; CLIFF BRASSWICK/THE DAILY CAMERA/AP





## KEY RETURNEES

### RG RYAN MILLER SENIOR

Miller has started every game the last two years and had one of his best games late in 2010 with 13 knockdown blocks against Kansas State. He gave up just two sacks and committed only two penalties all year.

### WR PAUL RICHARDSON SOPHOMORE

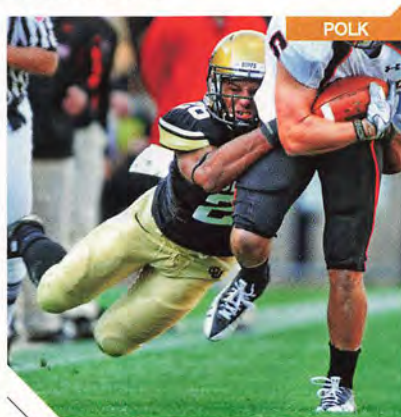
The team's top freshman last year, Richardson was second in yards (514) and touchdowns (six) while leading the team in yards per catch (15.1). Richardson plays bigger than his listed 6' 1" height and will stretch defenses with his 4.4 speed.

### TB RODNEY STEWART SENIOR

The 5' 6" 175-pounder ranks fifth alltime on the Buffs' rushing list (2,744 yards on 619 carries) and has 3,093 all-purpose yards, good for 10th in school history. An improved passing game should help open holes for him.

### FS RAY POLK JUNIOR

Recruited as a running back, Polk started 12 games at free safety last season and will anchor a secondary that lost Jalil Brown and Jimmy Smith to the NFL. Polk was second on the team in tackles (72) and played 787 of 809 snaps on defense.



## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### LB DOUG RIPPY JUNIOR

Tackling machine has made big improvement

The Buffs bring back five starters on D, and only Jon Major has much experience at linebacker. The 6' 2", 245-pound Rippy led Colorado with 24 tackles (18 solo) in three spring scrimmages and was named the top junior-to-be in camp. Jon Embree says Rippy made some of the biggest strides of any player in the off-season. Look for him to vie for All-Pac-12 honors.

## TOP RECRUIT

### OG PAULAY ASIATA FRESHMAN

Holes on the line leave room for Asiata

Rated as Hawaii's top high school player, this 6' 5" 285-pounder explodes out of a three-point stance and moves well laterally. Once committed to play for Washington, Asiata could contribute immediately on the Buffaloes' offensive line.

# COACH'S Q&A



## JON EMBREE

ON THE VALUE OF  
CONFIDENCE—AND  
OF SPECIAL TEAMS

**SI:** *You've said you want Colorado to get its swagger back. What do you mean by that?*

**JE:** You have to have an identity. When teams are confident in what they do and how they do things, that's how swagger comes about. It's about being confident that you're going to win, how you're going to win and confident that the other team isn't going to stop you.

**SI:** **WHAT DID YOU TELL THE TEAM WHEN YOU WERE HIRED?**

**JE:** WE ARE FOCUSED ON BUILDING A PROGRAM, AND BUILDING IT THE RIGHT WAY.

**SI:** *What's your biggest concern?*

**JE:** We need to improve the most on special teams. I told the guys that in 11, 12, maybe all 13 games, we probably won't be the most talented team on the field. So we need to be great on special teams. It's nonnegotiable.

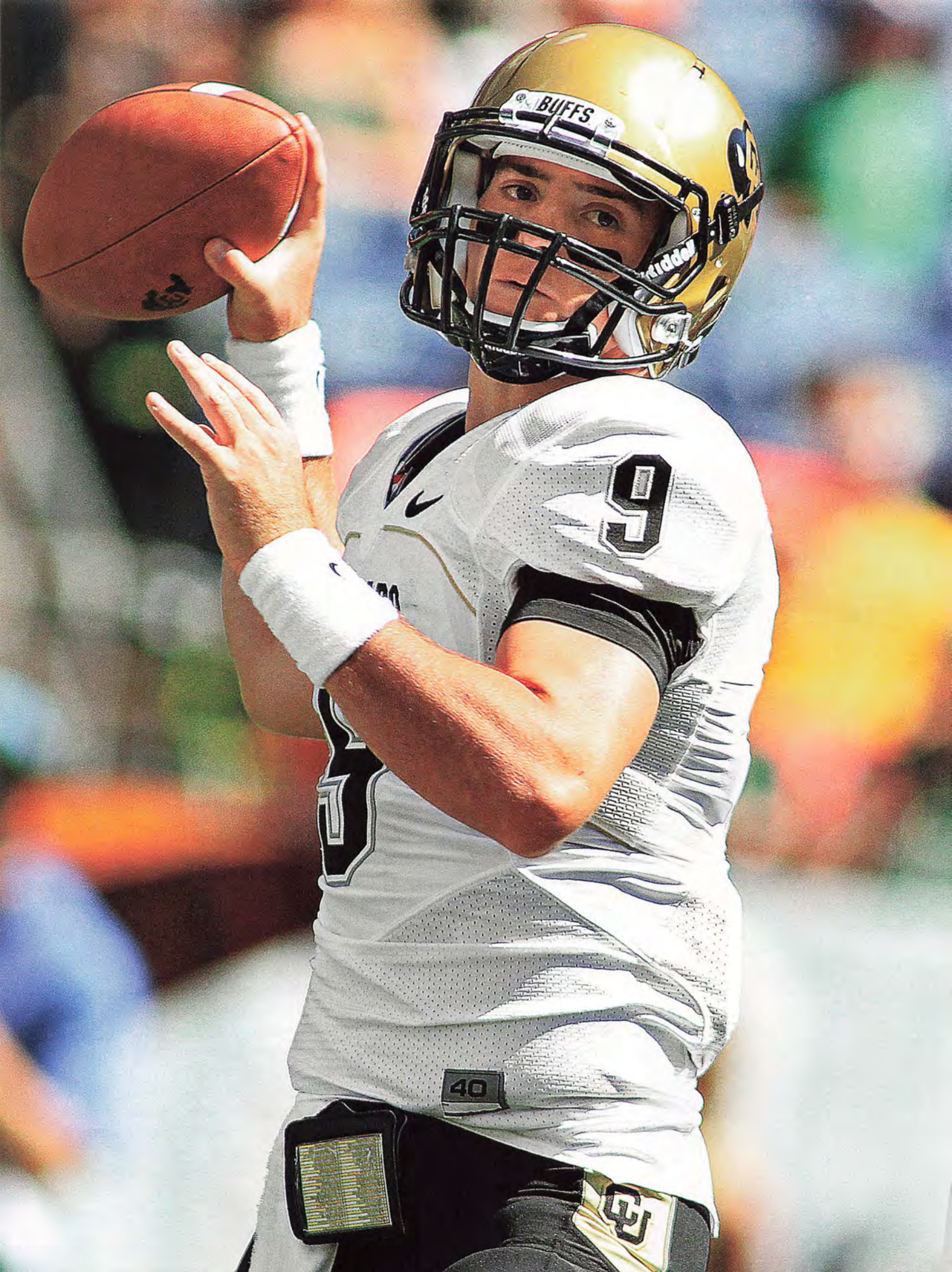
**SI:** *What's the biggest change you've made with this team so far?*

**JE:** We've worked more on flexibility, more core stuff. The thing about football that's unique is that you rarely make a play with both feet on the ground.

**SI:** *How has the team responded to you?*

**JE:** Great. One thing I say about the kids is that they all want to be here. They changed habits that needed [changing]. They worked out in their extra time. When I first showed up and went to the locker room, it was like a ghost town. Now you go in there, they have fun with each other. They're starting to be a team.









# PUTTING THE PAST BEHIND HIM

After three up-and-down years alongside the coach's son, he's finally the undisputed starter—and he can't wait to show what he can do **BY RYAN HATCH**

YOU KIND OF WANT TO FEEL SORRY FOR TYLER HANSEN, DON'T YOU? SINCE HE ARRIVED in Boulder in 2008, his career has been a series of false starts, marred by injury and a quarterback controversy unlike any other. But as he'll tell you, that was then, and this is now. ¶ "It's day and night," Hansen says, comparing 2011 with his first three seasons. "Being named the starter right after spring ball really helps your confidence." He adds, "This year . . . is going to be a lot of fun."

It's still hard not to wonder what could have been for the 6'1", 215-pound senior from Murrieta, Calif., who has thrown for 2,822 yards and 15 touchdowns in three helter-skelter seasons. As a freshman in '08, Hansen played sparingly as a backup to Cody Hawkins, son of then Colorado coach Dan Hawkins, thus forfeiting what should have been a redshirt season. Hansen started the last seven games of '09, though mostly under a cloud of doubt because Cody still played. And despite getting the nod as full-time starter before the 2010 season, Hansen never truly seemed to have the position secure—not as long as the coach's son still suited up. Hansen got Colorado off to a 3–1 mark, but was yanked mid-game in Week 5 against Missouri for, you guessed it, Cody. Hansen kept starting, but two weeks later against Texas Tech he suffered a ruptured spleen, which ended his season.

The quarterback shuffling wasn't easy on anyone, not least his teammates. "The last couple of years, half the guys would go to me, half the guys would go to Cody," he says. "You didn't always know if [a teammate] was choosing a guy because of [who Cody's father was]. I hate to say it, but it's true."

Now that Cody has graduated, there are other things that Hansen has to concern himself with. He will have to learn another new system while playing for his third offensive coordinator (former Colorado running back Eric Bieniemy) in four seasons. And he'll have to adapt quickly to new quarterbacks coach Rip Scherer's laid-back teach-

ing style ("which I love," Hansen says). So far all seems fine. "I couldn't ask for a better response from a player than I have [gotten] from Tyler," says Scherer, who spent the last six seasons as a quarterbacks coach with the Cleveland Browns and the Carolina Panthers. "He has what we call in the NFL 'It.' He has a presence about him, a certain demeanor. You can't coach that." He says that Hansen could play at the next level with a standout senior season. "Tyler's too humble to say that himself," the coach says. "But I know deep down it's something he'd like to do."



**EXTRA POINT** HANSEN'S DAD, RICK, PLAYED QB AT SAN DIEGO STATE AND IN AN NFL AUDITION WAS CUT BY THE BEARS ON THE LAST DAY OF CAMP.

Hansen will be learning his third offense in four years.

In the off-season Hansen worked extensively on flexibility training while also learning the team's new West Coast offense. Hansen, Scherer says, needs to learn to trust his offensive line and throw from the pocket and not abandon it so quickly to pass on the run as he did in years past. In a way, with the Hawkinses gone, this almost seems like Hansen's first season as a starter, despite having the considerable experience he has had. He's thrown three touchdowns against Nebraska; he's beaten Colorado State; he's led a second-half comeback against Georgia.

First-year head coach John Embree noticed something early on about Hansen: "You can tell his teammates have a lot of respect for him," Embree says. "He's excited to be the leader." □



# UCLA BRUINS

His job is on the line, but veteran coach Rick Neuheisel believes in his team and its chances to put another losing season in the rearview mirror **BY REBECCA SHORE**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Rick Neuheisel (4th year)  
15-22 (8-19 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Mike Johnson

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Joe Tresey

**2010 RECORD**  
4-8 (2-7, 9th in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**  
Offense 7, Defense 9

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
7, 6, 4, 7, 4

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 32 (4)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 116 (10)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 100 (10)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 108 (9)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 53 (5)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 94 (9)

THERE IS A SCENE TOWARD THE END OF *APOLLO 13* IN WHICH the NASA director expresses doubt about the spacecraft's landing safely. Says the director to an associate, "This could be the worst disaster NASA's ever experienced." At which point the mission's flight director cuts in, "With all due respect, sir, I believe this is going to be our finest hour."

Fourth-year UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel loves this exchange, because he feels it hits home. Saddled with the pessimism of the media and the Bruins' faithful, and hearing talk of his place on the hot seat, he references this scene often when talking to the team. "That's how you handle adversity," he says. "[You think:] Here is a chance to really pull this off and call it one of the greatest things that's ever happened."

Of course a football team can't get by on motivational quotes alone, and Neuheisel's squad went 4-8 last season with losses to Arizona State (after leading 17-0) and to USC (UCLA's fourth straight to its rival).

Trouble running a new offense and a multitude of injuries on both sides of the ball contributed to the disappointment. "No excuses," says

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 SOUTH



**THE BIG IF** DURING A SEASON IN WHICH EVERY YARD MATTERS, CAN STANDOUT PUNTER JEFF LOCKE GIVE THE BRUINS A FIELD-ADVANTAGE EDGE?

Locke's 2010 punting average ranked second alltime at UCLA.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 AT HOUSTON
- 10 SAN JOSE STATE
- 17 TEXAS
- 24 AT OREGON STATE

### OCTOBER

- 1 AT STANFORD
- 8 WASHINGTON STATE
- 20 AT ARIZONA
- 29 CALIFORNIA

### NOVEMBER

- 5 ARIZONA STATE
- 12 AT UTAH
- 19 COLORADO
- 26 AT USC

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

It'll be hard to repeat those 2010 W's over Houston (which has QB Case Keenum back after tearing his ACL in last year's meeting) and Texas.

Neuheisel, even after another blow this spring. On March 31, 300-pound junior offensive guard Jeff Baca broke his left ankle when a teammate fell on him during practice. If he isn't healthy by September, an already shallow offensive line talent pool will be shallower still.

Even after spring drills the quarterback situation was still unsettled. Last year's starter, Kevin Prince, connected on only 44.7% of his passes before suffering a right-knee injury. His replacement, junior Richard Brehaut, and freshman Brett Hundley are in contention for playing time, but neither has stood out. At least Johnathan Franklin, who is coming off a 1,000-rushing-yard season, will again lead a solid ground game.

The defense has to endure the departures of All-America safety Rahim Moore and linebacker Akeem Ayers to the NFL, but the unit has embraced new coordinator Joe Tresey (and his fast-paced 4-3 scheme) and brings back safety Tony Dye, who led the team in tackles.

In the heightened competition of the reconfigured Pac-12, finding a flight path to a .500 season won't be easy—finest hours don't come often—but for the veteran Neuheisel, who is putting his faith in new coaches and a more aggressive defense, it shouldn't be rocket science, either.

Last year Franklin led the Bruins in rushing, averaging 5.3 yards per carry.









HESTER

## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	KEVIN PRINCE	RICHARD BREHAUT*
RB	JOHNATHAN FRANKLIN*	DERRICK COLEMAN
F	ANTHONY BARR	DAMIEN THIGPEN
WR	TAYLOR EMBREE*	JOSH SMITH
WR	NELSON ROSARIO*	RANDALL CARROLL
TE	CORY HARKEY*	JOSEPH FAURIA
LT	SEAN SELLER*	CONNOR BRADFORD
LG	JEFF BACA	CASEY GRIFFITHS
C	KAI MAIAVA	GREG CAPELLA
RG	CHRIS WARD	WADE YANDALL
RT	MIKE HARRIS*	BRETT DOWNEY

### DEFENSE

DE	DATONE JONES	OWAMAGBE ODIGHIZUWA*
DT	CASSIUS MARSH	NATE CHANDLER*
DT	JUSTIN EDISON	DONOVAN CARTER
DE	DAMIEN HOLMES*	KEENAN GRAHAM*
LB	GLENN LOVE	JORDAN ZUMWALT
LB	PATRICK LARIMORE*	ISAIAH BOWENS
LB	SEAN WESTGATE*	ERIC KENDRICKS
CB	AARON HESTER*	ANDREW ABBOTT
SS	DIETRICH RILEY	DALTON HILLIARD
FS	TONY DYE*	ALEX MASCARENAS
CB	SHELDON PRICE*	ANTHONY JEFFERSON

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	JEFF LOCKE*	KIP SMITH
P	JEFF LOCKE*	KIP SMITH
KR-PR	JOSH SMITH	TAYLOR EMBREE*

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**44.7** CAREER PUNTING AVERAGE FOR JEFF LOCKE, THE BEST IN BRUINS HISTORY. HIS 2010 AVERAGE, 45.8, WAS FOURTH IN THE NATION.



FROM LEFT: ERIC GAY/AP; WADE PAYNE/AP; BRANDON PARRY/SOUTHWEST; GREGG DEGUZMAN/USA PRESS; RIC TAPIA/ICON SM





## KEY RETURNEES

### RB JOHNATHAN FRANKLIN JUNIOR

Coming off a breakout season (1,127 rushing yards), he showed increased speed and strength during spring practice. His performance this fall will be vital for an offense that last season had the conference's second-worst points-per-game average (20.2).

### C KAI MAIAVA SENIOR

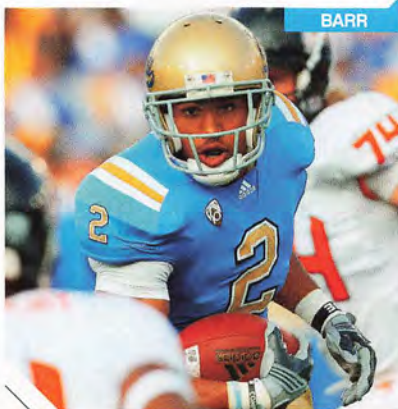
Maiava fractured his ankle during a fall scrimmage the same week he was named to the 2010 Rimington Trophy watch list. Now the 6' 1", 318-pound Hawaii native is healthy—and back on that list. That's good news for an inexperienced O-line.

### LB SEAN WESTGATE SENIOR

In his first year as a starter Westgate earned All-Pac-10 honorable mention after finishing seventh and 10th in the conference, respectively, in tackles (90, second on the team) and tackles for loss (11).

### F ANTHONY BARR SOPHOMORE

He was the team's offensive rookie of the year in 2010, and while his numbers weren't gaudy (nine catches for 66 yards, six carries for 31 yards), he runs the 40 in 4.5 and should shine full time at the hybrid F-back position.



BARR

## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### DE DATONE JONES JUNIOR

Former starter gets another shot after a year of rehab

Jones's star was poised to rise about this time last year, but a fractured right foot suffered during fall camp killed his chances a month before the season even started. With a new fitness regime that includes yoga and boxing, the 2009 starter (four sacks and 11 tackles for loss), who stands 6' 4" and 272 pounds, should lead the team in sacks.

## TOP RECRUIT

### QB BRETT HUNDLEY FRESHMAN

Pass-run threat might be just what the Bruins need

A five-star recruit (per Scout.com) from Chandler, Ariz., the dual-threat quarterback is already being pegged by fans as the team's savior. As a senior at Chandler High, Hundley threw for 2,348 yards and 20 TDs and ran for another 856 yards and 9 TDs.

# COACH'S Q&A



## RICH NEUHEISEL

ON MENTAL TOUGHNESS AND WHY HE LOVES HIS CADDIE

**SI:** *To what extent is there negativity around the program after the 4–8 season?*

**RN:** People are pessimistic because we haven't given them anything to be excited about. It's been years since the team's been where we all think it should be.

**SI:** **DO YOU FEEL ADDED PRESSURE TO HAVE A WINNING SEASON?**

**RN:** IF YOU DON'T LIKE PRESSURE, DON'T GET INTO COLLEGE FOOTBALL COACHING. NO ONE'S GOING TO PUT MORE PRESSURE ON ME THAN I DO; THAT I CAN GUARANTEE.

**SI:** *What are your thoughts on the schedule?*

**RN:** I'll give you Coaches Axiom 101: The first game is the most important game. But anytime you play nine conference games, you better strap it on.

**SI:** *How do you build a mentally tough team?*

**RN:** You make it hard, you talk about [problems] openly and you try to get closer as a football team. It's not so much about holding artificial [team meetings] but having a lot of open dialogue as to how we are going to handle adversity. We test ourselves as often as we can.

**SI:** *You played in Drew Brees's celebrity golf tournament in May. How'd you do?*

**RN:** I shot a 73 and a 76, which maybe isn't outstanding for the rest of the world, but it was for me. It's my Walter Mitty life to be a golfer. My wife [Susan] was my caddie in the last round, and we're still married. Good chemistry. She only got mad at me for one three-putt.







# AN ICEMAN ON DEFENSE

His unlikely and highly successful background as a hockey player prepared him to succeed on the gridiron in more ways than one **BY REBECCA SHORE**

THE HIGHLIGHT REEL WILL TELL YOU THAT IN UCLA'S WIN OVER HOUSTON LAST SEASON, the Bruins showed a flash of dominance when linebacker Akeem Ayers intercepted a pass on the UCLA goal line and ran it back 77 yards. What you may not have seen was the previous play, when Houston quarterback Case Keenum seemed end-zone-bound. "Basically you see this blue blur streak across the screen to stop the quarterback," says UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel. "It was a phenomenal play."

That TD-saving tackle came courtesy of safety Tony Dye, and it's one that Neuheisel shows players as a superlative example of hustle. "[Coach] loves to talk about that play," says Dye. "I'm proud of it."

The Corona, Calif., native didn't hone that hustle on the gridiron—he did it on ice. Introduced to hockey when he was six by his grandfather, who loved watching the sport, the kid with energy to burn took naturally to the rink as a left winger. However unlikely it was for a kid growing up in a warm climate to develop an infatuation with a winter sport, it was even stranger considering that his parents' talents were strictly terrestrial: father Mark played football at San Jose State and baseball in the Houston Astros' organization, and mother Danna plays in an adult soccer league. "We signed him up," says Mark, "and next thing I know, we're in Canada four times a year."

It wasn't until Dye's sophomore year at Santiago High that he turned his focus more intently to football. Playing hockey was getting prohibitively expensive—costs are high in Southern California because of what rinks and teams must spend to maintain the ice—and Tony and his parents and two younger brothers were prepared to move to Minnesota where he would play on scholarship at a prep school.

"That was a pretty big juncture in my life," Dye says. "At the time I wasn't worth anything as a football player. I was very deep [on] the depth chart, [and] I wasn't into it all." But he was even less into the idea of leaving home, so he made the decision to de-

vote his athletic energy to plan B: football. He found that his time on skates had prepared him well. "In hockey you're always going, going, going," says Dye, "and that translates really well to football for me."

It has also translated well for the Bruins: Dye started every game as a sophomore and a junior. "Hockey players are known for unbelievable exertion, and [Tony's] an aggressive guy," says Neuheisel. Indeed, Dye's 8.0 tackles per game (96 total) led UCLA and was fourth best in the conference.

This year, with safety Rahim Moore gone to the NFL, Dye will be even more essential to the D. His



**EXTRA POINT** DYE ALMOST WENT TO SHATTUCK-ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, WHERE SIDNEY CROSBY AND OTHER NHL STARS HAVE PLAYED.

Dye had a career-high 15 tackles against K-State in '10.

talent, versatility (he can play anywhere in the secondary) and his toughness (he has already bounced back from a knee sprain he suffered in spring practice) has earned him a spot on the Lott Trophy watch list, but he is unfazed by the hype. "I feel really comfortable with the pressure right now," he says.

Though Dye insists football is "100 percent my life" these days, hockey still has a place in his heart. He counts among his most thrilling memories a trip to an international hockey tournament in Quebec when he was 13; his California team lost to the Czech Republic in double OT in the final. Despite the defeat Dye remembers how good it felt to make it to that title game, and he has every intention of leading UCLA to great things. "I want to win the Pac-12 more than anything," says Dye. "That's why I work." □



# USC TROJANS

They will labor under sanctions and strictures, but at Troy, pride still matters. That alone may make a talented if unseasoned team dangerous **BY ANDREW LAWRENCE**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Lane Kiffin (2nd year)  
8-5 (5-4 in Pac-10)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Kennedy Pola

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Ed Orgeron

**2010 RECORD** 8-5 (5-4, 4th in Pac-10)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**  
Offense 6, Defense 8

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
11, 11, 12, 9, 8

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (Pac-10)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 25 (3)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 41 (5)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 26 (4)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 49 (6)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 83 (10)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 84 (7)

NO, THE TROJANS WON'T BE PLAYING FOR A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP in 2011, not even for a bowl invitation—a rejected appeal in May of their two-year NCAA postseason ban made sure of that—but there's no edict against them playing the role of spoiler. True, the loss of 30 scholarships over a three-year period put a crimp in USC coach Lane Kiffin's depth chart; 47 of USC's 86 returnees have never taken a college snap and only 14 have had 10 or more starts. So why isn't Kiffin tearing out his visor-bound hair? Because he has a bumper crop of talent coming in this fall, starting with the nation's fourth-best recruiting class. "There will be 31 new players for the first week of fall camp," says the second-year coach, who will also have 11 players coming off of redshirts. "That will allow us to practice the way that we want to."

What Kiffin wants is more intensity, especially late in games. The Trojans know how to bleed the clock. Last year USC hogged the ball for an average of 31:52, second in the conference to Stanford's 34:34. But deep in the fourth quarter the Trojans were the ones getting gashed.

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 SOUTH



**THE BIG IF** CAN A RAW TROJANS DEFENSE MASTER MONTE KIFFIN'S COMPLEX SCHEMES IN TIME TO STAUNCH THOSE LATE COLLAPSES?

Kiffin's D could further unleash ball-hawking corner Nickell Robey.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 MINNESOTA
- 10 UTAH
- 17 SYRACUSE
- 24 AT ARIZONA STATE

### OCTOBER

- 1 ARIZONA
- 13 AT CALIFORNIA
- 22 AT NOTRE DAME
- 29 STANFORD

### NOVEMBER

- 4 AT COLORADO
- 12 WASHINGTON
- 19 AT OREGON
- 26 UCLA

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The midseason gantlet of Notre Dame, Stanford and Colorado will be entertaining but academic with the Trojans barred from postseason play.

Of their five losses, three came by four points or fewer. Two of those were decided on field goals as time expired, including a devastating 37-35 defeat to the Cardinal last October. "If we perform decent down the stretch, we're probably 11-2," Kiffin says.

That's why he made the two-minute drill a point of emphasis this off-season, particularly for his defense. The traditionally stout unit took a step backward in '10, surrendering a school-record 400 yards per game and a whopping 118 fourth-quarter points. Inexperience was a factor: Four of the Trojans' front-seven starters were first-timers. So was the learning curve for the complex pro defense of assistant head coach Monte Kiffin (Lane's father). "It's not easy to pick up on," says junior free safety T.J. McDonald, who is responsible for getting the secondary into the right coverage schemes. "For me the biggest thing was knowing how to disguise a defense and also make my checks at the same time."

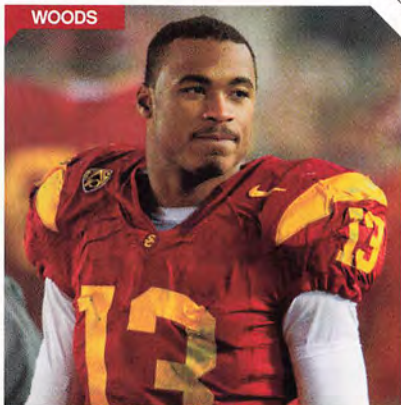
While USC can't sneak into the postseason conversation, the Trojans might ambush others with bowl aspirations. "We can't do anything about the cards we were dealt," McDonald says, "but we can go out there and dominate."

A deeper backfield might make top rusher Marc Tyler even more productive.









WOODS

## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	MATT BARKLEY*	JESSE SCROGGINS
FB	SOMA VAINUKU	HUNTER SIMMONS
TB	CURTIS McNEAL	MARC TYLER*
SE	BRANDON CARSWELL	KYLE PRATER
FL	ROBERT WOODS*	DE'VON FLOURNOY
TE	RHETT ELLISON*	XAVIER GRIMBLE
LT	MATT KALIL*	DAVID GARNES
LG	JOHN MARTINEZ	GIOVANNI DI POALO
C	KHALED HOLMES*	ABE MARKOWITZ
RG	MARTIN COLEMAN	CYRUS HOBBI
RT	JEREMY GALTEN	KEVIN GRAF

### DEFENSE

DE	DEVON KENNARD*	WES HORTON
NT	CHRISTIAN TUPOU	DAJOHN HARRIS*
DT	GEORGE UKO	ARMOND ARMSTEAD*
DE	NICK PERRY*	ERIC CHILDS
LB	MARQUIS SIMMONS	DION BAILEY
LB	CHRIS GALIPPO*	WILL ANDREW
LB	HAYES PULLARD	SHANE HORTON*
CB	NICKELL ROBEY*	ANTHONY BROWN
FS	T.J. McDONALD*	JAWANZA STARLING*
SS	MARSHALL JONES	DEMETRIUS WRIGHT
CB	TONY BURNETT	TORIN HARRIS

### SPECIAL TEAMS

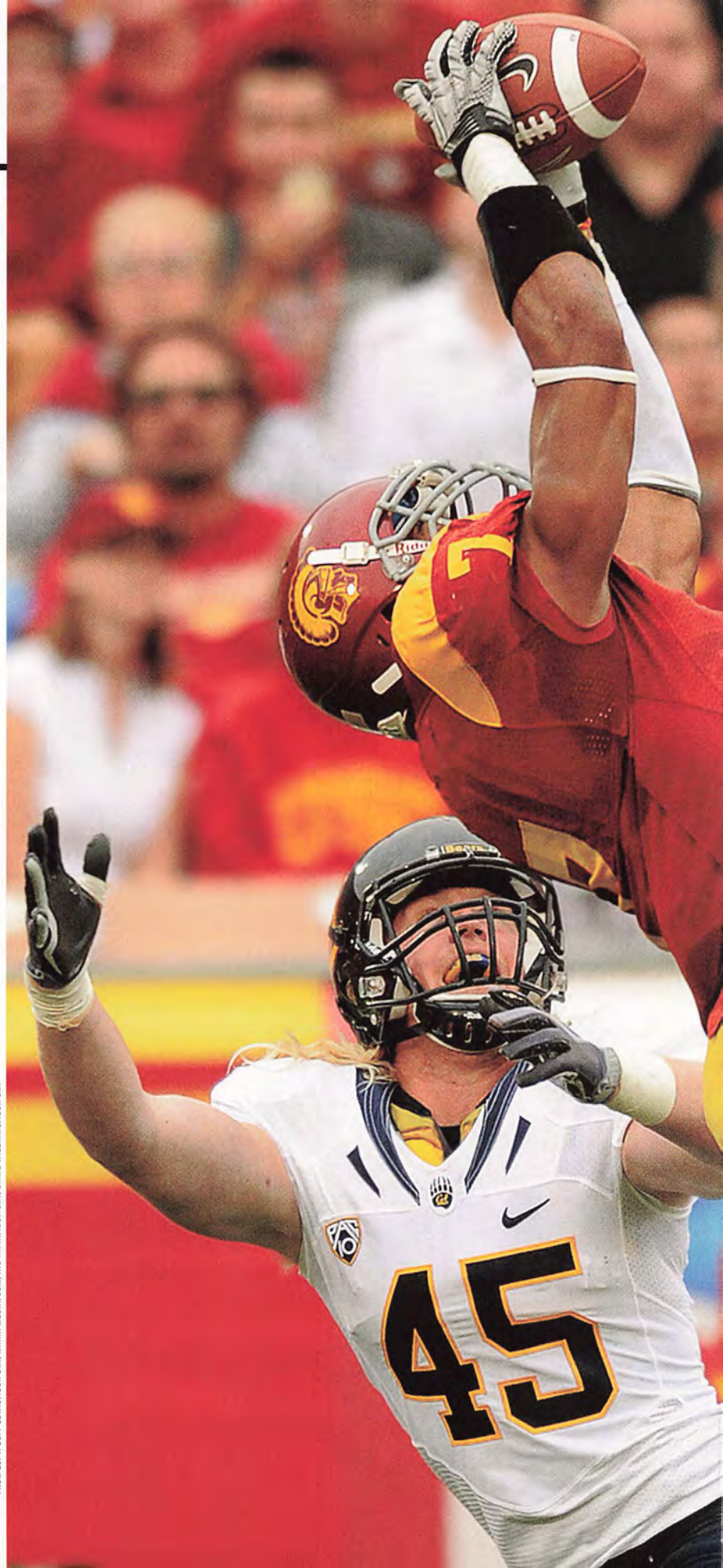
K	ANDRE HEIDARI	CRAIG McMAHON
P	KYLE NEGRETE	KRIS ALBARADO
KR	ROBERT WOODS*	NICKELL ROBEY
PR	NICKELL ROBEY	CURTIS McNEAL

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**-2** PASSING TOUCHDOWN DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN USC (28) AND ITS OPPONENTS (30) LAST SEASON, THE FIRST NEGATIVE RESULT SINCE 1999.

FROM LEFT: JEFF LEWIS/ICON SM, MARIN MEDIA/CSM, RIC TAPIA/ICON SM, CHRIS WILLIAMS/ICON SM





## KEY RETURNEES

**FS T.J. McDONALD JUNIOR**

A Trojans legacy, the 6' 3" 205-pounder evokes his dad, Tim, a two-time All-America safety. Last year McDonald led USC in tackles (89) while snatching three interceptions and blocking a punt.

**TB MARC TYLER SENIOR**

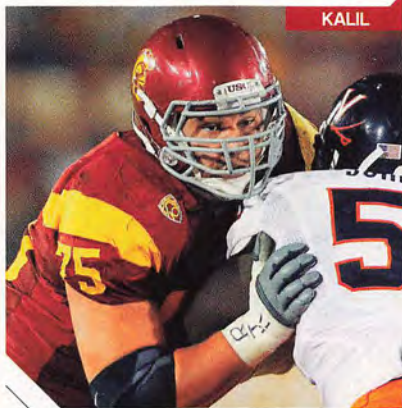
The 5' 11" 230-pounder paced USC in rushing yards (913) and TDs (nine). He should be fresher and even more prolific in a deeper backfield rotation.

**WR-KR ROBERT WOODS SOPHOMORE**

The first Trojans true freshman since WWII to start a season opener at wide receiver, the 6' 1" 185-pounder ranked second in the conference with 1,817 all-purpose yards—including 792 receiving and 971 on kick returns.

**LT MATT KALIL JUNIOR**

His body (6' 7", 295 pounds) and his play (he anchored a unit that paved the way for 2,461 rushing yards and allowed just one sack per 28 drop-backs) have some observers comparing Kalil favorably to his older brother, Ryan, a USC All-America in 2006 who now plays center for the Carolina Panthers.



KALIL

## BREAKOUT PLAYER

**CB NICKELL ROBEY SOPHOMORE**

A one-man Nickell defense

A wisp at 5' 8" and 165 pounds, the dreadlocked Floridian is the first USC true freshman since WWII to start a season opener at cornerback. In 2010, Robey snagged a team-leading four interceptions, forced a fumble and got his hands on four other balls while finishing fourth on the team in solo tackles, with 32. Look for him to be more aggressive now that he's even more fluent in the Tampa Two defense.

## TOP RECRUIT

**WR GEORGE FARMER FRESHMAN**

One very fast high-school reunion

At Junipero Serra High last year Farmer (a former high school teammate of Robert Woods) caught 65 balls and scored 21 TDs for the 14-1 Cavaliers. A three-sport star (basketball, track), Farmer boasts size (6' 2", 205 pounds) and speed: He clocked a 10.4 in the 100 meters.

# COACH'S Q&A



**LANE  
KIFFIN**

ON QUARTERBACK  
COMPARISONS AND  
SECONDARY HOPE

**SI:** *The Matt Barkley-Tim Tebow parallel is hard to miss. Do you hear it much?*

**LK:** Yeah, I hear a little bit of it from my wife, Layla, and her parents, who all went to Florida. We brought Tim out here and tried to sign him. There is a lot of comparison. They're both phenomenal student-athletes with maturity well beyond their years.

**SI:** *Do you spend much time watching football just for fun?*

**LK:** Sometimes I will catch the second half of a Thursday-night game. But that's about it.

**SI:** *How much better will your secondary be with another year in this defensive system?*

**LK:** Our secondary has improved. That was one of our healthier positions this spring. We were pretty injured in the front seven. All those guys [up front] will be back for the fall, hopefully, so we can tie everything together.

**SI:** **WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A STAFF TO HELP YOUR DEFENSE IN TWO-MINUTE SITUATIONS?**

**LK:** WE'VE GOT TO PLAY MORE GUYS ON DEFENSE SO THAT WE HAVE MORE OF THEM RESTED AT THE END.

**SI:** *Being a young coach, what advice do you give to other young coaches?*

**LK:** I tell them that you never know which connections are going to matter. Every person that they come across, every job that they're at. You never know who is going to be in a decision-making position somewhere down the road.







# MAN ON A FOOTBALL RESCUE MISSION

A résumé full of good deeds underlies the desire of USC's leader to revive the spirit of a battered program **BY ANDREW LAWRENCE**

MATT BARKLEY JUST HAD TO GET AWAY—FAR AWAY. CHRISTMAS BREAK WAS NIGH, AND USC, despite an 8–5 record, was banned from bowl play thanks to the harsh sanctions the program incurred for failing to monitor improper payments to former Trojans Heisman winner Reggie Bush and his family. Rather than pass the time in front of the TV glowering at a game in which he might have been starring, the quarterback rounded up his parents, two younger siblings, girlfriend Brittany Langdon (a junior midfielder on the Seattle Pacific soccer team) and USC punter Kyle Negrete. The group flew to central Nigeria to deliver some year-end help to the poverty-stricken, war-torn nation. During a whirlwind 11 days Barkley gave away hygiene kits at a widows' home, erected soccer goals at an orphanage and helped build a water tower for a village. "I wanted to do something worthwhile with the huge block of time off," says Barkley, a service junkie who had completed missions in Mexico and South Africa while attending Mater Dei High in Santa Ana, Calif. "This trip helped me realize I need to do a better job of seeing value in everything that comes in my path and be thankful for the littlest things."

Yet when it came time for spring ball, Barkley found it hard to follow that philosophy. The Trojans were ailing. Ten scholarship players missed at least part of the spring, including 6' 4", 300-pound junior lineman Khaled Holmes (neck stingers) and electric sophomore wideout Robert Woods (sprained ankle), and without his full complement Barkley labored to find a rhythm. He also struggled to harness his temper. During one practice he screamed at a walk-on receiver for running the wrong route. He was similarly disgruntled in the spring game, in which the defense dismantled the offense 42–29.

Barkley was forced to make an attitude adjustment. "We really challenged him to work on himself," says second-year coach Lane Kiffin. "I think it's good for him to have some difficult situa-

tions to face with our program having to rebuild."

Two years ago, when Barkley was a 19-year-old true freshman starter, his teammates let him have it for being on a different page than his receivers. But eventually the 6' 2", 220-pound passer became as soothingly rhythmic as the waves that crash on the shores of his native Newport Beach. In 2009 he completed 59.9% of his tosses for 2,735 yards and 15 touchdowns while leading USC to nine wins. In '10 he was even better, throwing more than twice as many scores (26) as interceptions (12) on the way to finishing as a semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien



**EXTRA POINT** IN HIGH SCHOOL BARKLEY HELPED START MONARCHS FOR MARINES TO AID FAMILIES OF WOUNDED AND FALLEN SOLDIERS.

Barkley grew up less than 40 miles from USC's campus.

Award, given to the nation's best quarterback.

Now Barkley is entering his third year as a starter, and he is confident his teammates—including the 31 incoming signees—can follow his lead. "One thing I was happy with this spring is that even though everyone wasn't at their full potential, we still did pretty well," Barkley says. "Once guys heal up, our backups catch up and our recruiting class comes in, we'll be able to do even greater things."

That sounds like a more grounded quarterback than the one who got so rattled this spring. Far from Nigeria—and with considerably less at stake—Barkley got another key lesson. "I learned that no matter what the situation, I've got to make the best of what I have," he says. As USC enters its final year of probation, that's a valuable perspective. □



# UTAH UTES

A confident quarterback, a wealth of talent at running back and an experienced defensive line figure to help the Utes transition to their new conference **BY KELLI ANDERSON**

## THE VITALS

**COACH** Kyle Whittingham (7th year)  
58-20 (35-13 in MWC)

**OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Norm Chow

**DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR**  
Kalani Sitake

**2010 RECORD** 10-3  
(7-1, 2nd in MWC)

**FINAL AP RANK** NR

**RETURNING STARTERS**  
Offense 6, Defense 5

**WINS OVER THE LAST FIVE SEASONS**  
8, 9, 13, 10, 10

**2010 RANKINGS** FBS (MWC)

**RUSHING OFFENSE** 62 (5)

**PASSING OFFENSE** 47 (2)

**TOTAL OFFENSE** 52 (4)

**RUSHING DEFENSE** 11 (2)

**PASSING DEFENSE** 73 (7)

**TOTAL DEFENSE** 27 (3)

THE UTAH UTES' TASKS THIS SEASON—TO MASTER A NEW OFFENSE and navigate a new conference while meeting now annual sky-high expectations—might be daunting to some quarterbacks. Jordan Wynn, though, sees the challenges as evidence that “the planets are aligning just right. It couldn’t be more perfect,” says the junior.

After a frustrating 2010 season during which he missed three games, including Utah’s 26-3 loss to Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl, because of thumb and shoulder injuries, Wynn is eager to run new coordinator Norm Chow’s pro-style offense. “I think [it] will suit me better,” says Wynn, a pocket passer who spent the last two years in a modified spread. “I’m not a dual-threat quarterback. In high school I ran a pro-style set. It’ll be nice to get back to three- and five-step drops.”

Wynn sat out most of the spring because he was recovering from December surgery on his right (throwing) shoulder. “Even so, he already has complete command of the offense,” says coach Kyle Whittingham.

Wynn’s recovery began smoothly (he started throwing in May

## PAC-12 2011 PREVIEW PAC-12 SOUTH



**THE BIG IF** CAN CHRISTOPHER AND HIS FELLOW WIDEOUTS HELP WYNN AND THE NEW-LOOK OFFENSE MAKE A STATEMENT IN THE PASS-HAPPY PAC-12?

Christopher led all receivers with an average of 55.0 yards a game.

## SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 MONTANA STATE
- 10 AT USC
- 17 AT BYU

### OCTOBER

- 1 WASHINGTON
- 8 ARIZONA STATE
- 15 AT PITTSBURGH
- 22 AT CALIFORNIA
- 29 OREGON STATE

### NOVEMBER

- 5 AT ARIZONA
- 12 UCLA
- 19 AT WASHINGTON STATE
- 25 COLORADO

## SCHEDULE ANALYSIS

The Utes are 66-99-6 against the Pac-12 foes they’ll meet this year; they’re 1-4 alltime at USC. But their home games are very winnable.

without pain), and this fall he will have some familiar targets, including junior DeVonte Christopher, whose 39 catches last year leads all returning receivers, and junior Reggie Dunn, a deep threat who runs the 40 in 4.28. In Utah’s backfield three newcomers will compete for touches: freshman Harvey Langi, a high school All-America; John White IV, a slippery scatback who starred at L.A. Harbor College last year; and sophomore Thretton Palamo, a world-class rugby player.

The defense will have a similarly mixed bag of experienced and green units. The entire secondary will be new now that sophomore Brian Blechen has moved from strong safety to linebacker. On the other hand the rotating defensive line, always a strength under Whittingham, will draw from six players who have started a total of 48 games, including senior Derrick Shelby, junior Dave Kruger and sophomore Star Lotulelei.

The expectations for the Utes in their new universe? “I’ve heard everything from ‘Utah will be lucky if it’s not in last place’ to ‘Utah could easily win the Pac-12 South,’” says senior right tackle Tony Bergstrom. To do the latter, the Utes just need the planets to align.

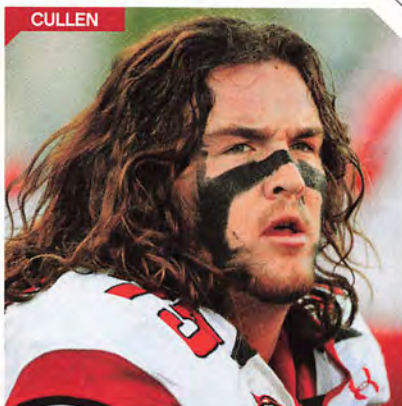
With Wynn (3) back from injury and in the pocket, the Utes should stand tall.

JOHN BIEVER (RIGHT); BOYD IVEY/ICON SM









CULLEN

## PROJECTED LINEUP

### OFFENSE

QB	JORDAN WYNN*	TYLER SHREVE
RB	THRETTON PALAMO	JOHN WHITE IV
FB	DALLIN ROGERS	JAKE MURPHY
WR	DEVONTE CHRISTOPHER*	ANTHONY DENHAM
WR	DRES ANDERSON	REGGIE DUNN
TE	KENDRICK MOEAI*	WESTLEE TONGA
LT	JOHN CULLEN*	KAPUA SAI
LG	SAM BRENNER	JEREMIAH TOFAEONO
C	TEVITA STEVENS*	VYNCENT JONES
RG	PERCY TAUMOELAU	ISAAC ASIATA
RT	TONY BERGSTROM*	DANIEL NIELSON

### DEFENSE

DE	DAVE KRUGER*	TEVITA FINAU
DT	JAMES AIONO	DAVE KRUGER*
NT	STAR LOTULELEI	LT TUIPULOTU
DE	DERRICK SHELBY*	JOE KRUGER
LB	MATT MARTINEZ*	JACOBY HALE
LB	CHAZ WALKER*	J.J. WILLIAMS
LB	BRIAN BLECHEN*	TREVOR REILLY
CB	RYAN LACY	WYKIE FREEMAN
SS	MICHAEL WALKER	GREG BIRD
FS	KEITH MCGILL	ERIC ROWE
CB	CONROY BLACK	REGGIE TOPPS

### SPECIAL TEAMS

K	COLEMAN PETERSON	NICK MARSH
P	SEAN SELLWOOD*	NICK MARSH
KR	RYAN LACY	REGGIE DUNN
PR	GRIFF McNABB	DRES ANDERSON

\*Returning starter

## TELLING NUMBER

**O** CAREER FIELD GOALS AND PATS ATTEMPTED BY JUNIOR KICKER COLEMAN PETERSON, WHO WILL ASSUME BOTH DUTIES THIS YEAR.



FROM LEFT: DAVID E. KLUTHO; STEPHEN HOLTS; SOUTH CREEK GLOBAL/ZUMA PRESS; JOHN BIEVER; JED JACOBSON





## KEY RETURNÉES

### WR DEVONTE CHRISTOPHER JUNIOR

Christopher led the team in receiving yards (660) and TD catches (six) last season, but the year ended on a sour note for him: After he tweeted smack about Boise State before the Las Vegas Bowl, the Broncos held him to zero catches in the 26-3 loss.

### NT STAR LOTULELE! SOPHOMORE

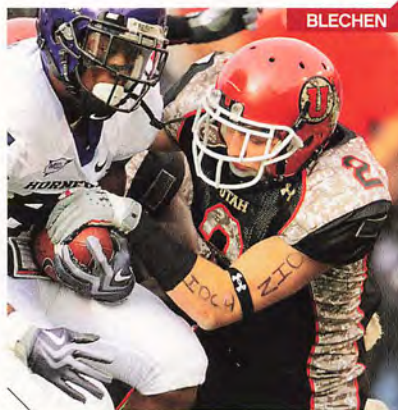
The 6' 4", 310-pound native of Tonga, who had 21 tackles last year, can both apply pressure and plug the holes. He anchors a fearsome defensive line that Kyle Whittingham calls "the strong suit" of the Utes.

### QB JORDAN WYNN JUNIOR

When Wynn was at the helm over the last two years, the Utes scored on 93% of their trips to the red zone. He passed for 2,334 yards and 17 TDs over 10 games in 2010, and with his shoulder healed, he should put up even bigger numbers this season.

### LB BRIAN BLECHEN SOPHOMORE

A four-sport letterman in high school, the 6' 2", 222-pound Blechen is proving to be Mr. Versatility at Utah, too: He had 67 tackles and a team-high four picks as a strong safety in 2010 and has moved to linebacker.



## BREAKOUT PLAYER

### RB THRETTON PALAMO SOPHOMORE

Last played as a high school junior but has all the tools

The 6' 2", 237-pound walk-on last played football in 2006, but he knows how to break tackles. In '07 he made the USA Rugby team and at 19 was the youngest to ever play in the Rugby World Cup. Last year he led the Utes to the Collegiate Rugby Sevens championship. "He runs exceptionally well," says Whittingham. "He's a diamond in the rough."

## TOP RECRUIT

### RB HARVEY LANGI FRESHMAN

Hometown speedster got a head start this spring

A 6' 1", 216-pound bruiser, he rushed for 4,289 yards and 55 TDs over three years at Bingham High near Salt Lake City, leading the Miners to state titles in '09 and '10. Langi enrolled early at Utah and made his case to start with 63 yards in the spring game.

# COACH'S Q&A



## KYLE WHITTINGHAM

ON GETTING TO KNOW HIS PLAYERS, AND A NEW CONFERENCE

**SI:** How did your late father, Fred, a former Utah defensive coordinator, impact your defensive philosophy?

**KW:** He was one of the best defensive coaches I've ever been around. The essence of what we do is based on what I learned from him: [We run] a 4-3 scheme, and we play more man-to-man than most teams.

**SI:** Jordan Wynn says that you really tried to get to know him during the recruiting process. Is that a big priority for you?

**KW:** It's very important. The more you know about your players, the better relationships you can build. [It's] one of the things I really enjoy about coaching at the collegiate level. I know some better than others, but I try to know them all.

## SI: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSICAL TASTES?

**KW:** I'M A CLASSIC-ROCK GUY. MY FAVORITE BANDS INCLUDE LYNRYD SKYNYRD, PINK FLOYD. I DON'T DISCUSS THEM WITH MY PLAYERS. THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THOSE GUYS ARE.

**SI:** You were an educational psychology major at BYU. Who do you like to read?

**KW:** C.S. Lewis is one of my favorite writers. I have a book on leadership by John Wooden on my nightstand right now.

**SI:** How has the team responded to the move to the Pac-12?

**KW:** Our guys are excited about the challenge. Given that our first Pac-12 game is at USC, it will be a big challenge right away.







# THE RIGHT TACKLE FOR THE JOB

A 25-year-old family guy and lifetime lineman has become the linchpin of Utah's benevolent brotherhood of big men **BY KELLI ANDERSON**

UTAH SENIOR RIGHT TACKLE TONY BERGSTROM HAS A BEEF WITH THE SCHOOL'S SPORTS information department. He feels his bio, which lists "genetic research" among his interests, doesn't convey sufficient menace for a 6' 6", 315-pound lineman. "They paint me like I'm some super nerd," says Bergstrom, who ditched biology for chemical engineering three years ago. "I'd prefer it if it said, 'He enjoys hunting—with his bare hands.'"

That he actually enjoys wakeboarding and hanging out with his wife, Jessica, and their nine-month-old daughter, Olivia, is beside the point. For Bergstrom and his mates on Utah's offensive line, intimidation is as much a part of their job as executing with skill and chemistry, which they did last season when they allowed less than a sack per game. Yet even without tough-guy hobbies Bergstrom is about as perfect a lineman as can be, according to new O-line coach Tim Davis.

"I'm not trying to be mushy, but he's the kid I'd want my daughter to marry, if he wasn't married already," says Davis. "He does everything right on and off the field. As a lineman he pays great attention to detail, and he understands the whole picture: the protection, the run game, where the ball hits—he has all that."

Bergstrom has had plenty of time to nail the nuances of line play. As soon as he joined a youth football team in Salt Lake City at age eight, his gridiron destiny was sealed. "Utah [youth league] is kind of weird: If you weigh a certain amount, they put a big X on your helmet and confine you to the offensive or defensive line," he says. "I remember 70 pounds was the weight limit, and I was over that by [age] five."

After graduating from Salt Lake City's Skyline High, where he was an all-state lineman in 2004, Bergstrom spent two years on an LDS church mission in Sacramento before joining the Utes. One benefit of his late arrival: As the backup left tackle his freshman year he faced top defensive end Paul Kruger every day in practice. Aside from keeping Bergstrom sharp, Kruger, who now plays for the

Baltimore Ravens, introduced him to his sister Jessica, who is now Mrs. Bergstrom. Two other Kruger brothers, Dave and Joe, both defensive linemen, have since joined the Utes. "It's like having a whole bunch of brothers [here] now," says Bergstrom. "We all hang out and have a good time."

Bergstrom is also close with his two fellow returning O-linemen, 6' 5", 295-pound senior left tackle John Cullen, whose flowing locks and "terrible tattoos" are favorite targets of Bergstrom's gently barbed commentary, and Tevita Stevens, a 6' 1", 298-pound junior who is so in tune with



**EXTRA POINT** BERGSTROM VERBALLY COMMITTED TO UTAH IN JUNE 2004 BUT DIDN'T PLAY HIS FIRST DOWN UNTIL SEPTEMBER '08.

The Salt Lake City native has started 26 straight games.

Bergstrom that "we finish each other's sentences," says Bergstrom. He expects the camaraderie to continue when two new starters join the trio: 6' 3", 300-pound junior Sam Brenner will likely take over at left guard while Stevens will move from right guard to center and be replaced by 6' 4", 312-pound sophomore Percy Taumoealau.

Protecting junior quarterback Jordan Wynn, who missed three games with injuries last season, is a particularly big priority this year. "The Pac-12 is a whole other level that we have to step up to," says Bergstrom. "The Mountain West was great, but there were always a few games every year that were the big ones that you really had to get excited for. Now every week is that week. I can't wait for it to start." Let the hunt begin. □



THE PAC-12

# HOW WE GOT HERE

From its humble, four-team origins, the conference has become a colossus with a far-flung and ever-widening reach

BY DICK FRIEDMAN





1933

## ROSY DAYS AT USC

Beginning a Rose Bowl rout, USC's Ford Palmer gathers in a 33-yard touchdown pass in a 35-0 victory over Pitt. The triumph gave coach Howard Jones's Trojans—who were spearheaded by back Cotton Warburton and who outscored foes 201-13 in 1932—a 10-0-0 record and a second straight national title. Tackles Tay Brown and Ernie Smith and guard Aaron Rosenberg were named All-Americans.





# 1960

## HUSHY HEART

**N** Conference teams had lost 12 of 13 Rose Bowls to the Big Ten before Washington quarterback Bob Schloredt engineered back-to-back New Year's wins, 44-8 over Wisconsin in 1960 and 17-7 over Minnesota in '61. All but blind in his left eye, the inspirational Schloredt saw coach Jim Owens's Huskies to consecutive 10-1-0 seasons.





COLLEGE FOOTBALL ON THE WEST COAST GOT OFF to a rocky start: In 1902 Stanford was crushed 49-0 by Michigan in the first Rose Bowl. Four years later Cal and Stanford temporarily abandoned football (deemed too violent) for rugby. But by the '20s, following the formation of the Pacific Coast Conference, the game had taken hold. The next two decades yielded hallowed names: the Wonder Teams of Cal's Andy Smith; Howard Jones's USC juggernauts; and Stanford's mighty Vow Boys (so-named for their pledge to beat USC, which they did). The teams played in some of the nation's most picturesque venues, such as L.A.'s mammoth Coliseum, Washington's bayside Husky Stadium and Cal's hillside Memorial Stadium.

Pacific Coast Conference football offered mostly salubrious weather and perfectly paired natural rivalries (still true even with the addition of the Arizona schools in 1978). These are serendipitous regional symmetries that no other conference can boast. It also provided a bonanza of homegrown talent yielded by the region's post-WWII population boom. And yet the Eastern-centric press often failed to take notice (except when Pac schools were waxed

## CONFERENCE SCHOOLS CAN BOAST 15 NATIONAL TITLES, AND ITS PLAYERS HAVE WON 10 HEISMANS.

Bruins song girls: sunny on the sideline since 1950.



by the Big Ten in the Rose Bowl). The problem of recognition was particularly acute when schools from the Pacific Northwest came to the fore: Who outside of Pullman, for instance, recalls the historic 1930 Washington State team of coach Orin Ercel (Babe) Hollingbery that featured All-America center Mel Hein and went to the Rose Bowl?

Once Pac games began to be televised, however, the word got out. And has stayed out. The entire nation was thrilled to the duels in the sun featuring John McKay's rampaging USC tailbacks beginning in the 1960s, the heroic heaves of a flotilla of Stanford quarterbacks (Albert Brodie, Plunkett, Elway, Luck et al.) over seven decades and the scoreboard-blowing offense of last year's supercharged Oregon Ducks. To those Easterners who still sniff that West Coast teams are as soft as the UCLA pom-pom girls... well, how would you like to run a nutcracker drill against the likes of Tedy Bruschi, Kenny Easley, Steve Emtman, Ronnie Lott, Anthony Muñoz, Jonathan Ogden, Troy Polamalu, Terrell Suggs, Ron Yary?

Now Colorado and Utah come in, extending the conference's range to the Rockies and importing their own hallowed traditions, to say nothing of glorious natural settings. For the new Pac-12, even higher peaks are on the horizon.

## FIRST DOWNS, PAC-12



### 1892 First Big Game

In San Francisco, Stanford defeats Cal 14-10

### 1894 First Shots in the Civil War

Oregon State beats Oregon 16-0 at Corvallis

### 1900 First Sip from the Apple Cup

In Seattle, Washington and Washington State tie 5-5

### 1902 First Bowl Game

On Jan. 1 in Pasadena, Stanford is crushed by Michigan 49-0

### 1916 First Bowl Victory

Washington State whips Brown in the Rose Bowl 14-0

### 1916 First Pacific Coast Conference Season

Washington (6-0-1) is champ of four-team league

### 1920 First National Champion

Cal goes 9-0-0 under Andy Smith

### 1920s First Mega-Stadiums

Stanford ('21), Cal's Memorial ('23)

### 1926 First John Wayne Sighting

As Marion Morrison, the Duke plays tackle for USC

### 1927 First Nationwide Sports Radio Broadcast

Stanford ties Alabama 7-7 in Rose Bowl heard on NBC

### 1930 First Greek Warrior Sighting

Statue of Tommy Trojan is unveiled on USC campus

### 1940 First T formation

One of its fathers, Clark Shaughnessy, brings it to Stanford

### 1942 First (and Only) Rose Bowl Outside of California

In Durham, N.C., Oregon State beats Duke 20-16

### 1946 First Rose Bowl Agreement

The PCC and the Big Ten sign a five-year deal

### 1946 First Sound of "Charge!"

Trumpet fanfare is blared by USC band

### 1948 First Televised Conference Game

UCLA vs. USC on KLAC-TV

### 1950 First Song Girls Sighting

On the UCLA sideline. (USC's wouldn't come along till '67.)

### 1952 First Rose Bowl on national TV

In black-and-white on NBC, Stanford loses to Illinois 40-7

### 1962 First West Coast Heisman

Terry Baker, Oregon State QB

### 1972 First Mark Harmon Sighting

The future *NCIS* star starts at QB for UCLA

### 1972 First Big Nickname Brouhaha

Stanford drops Indians, eventually becomes the Cardinal

### 1978 First Desert Expansion

Arizona and Arizona State join; conference becomes Pac-10

### 1982 First Trombone Trampling

Stanford band member Gary Tyrrell, by Cal during The Play

### 1999 First Nike-Redesigned Uniforms

Oregon gets toggled out in eye-catching schemes

### 2010 First Mountain Expansion

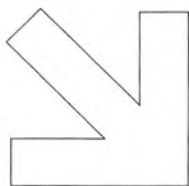
Colorado and Utah join what is now the Pac-12

### 2011 First Channel

Conference announces its own network, to begin in '12



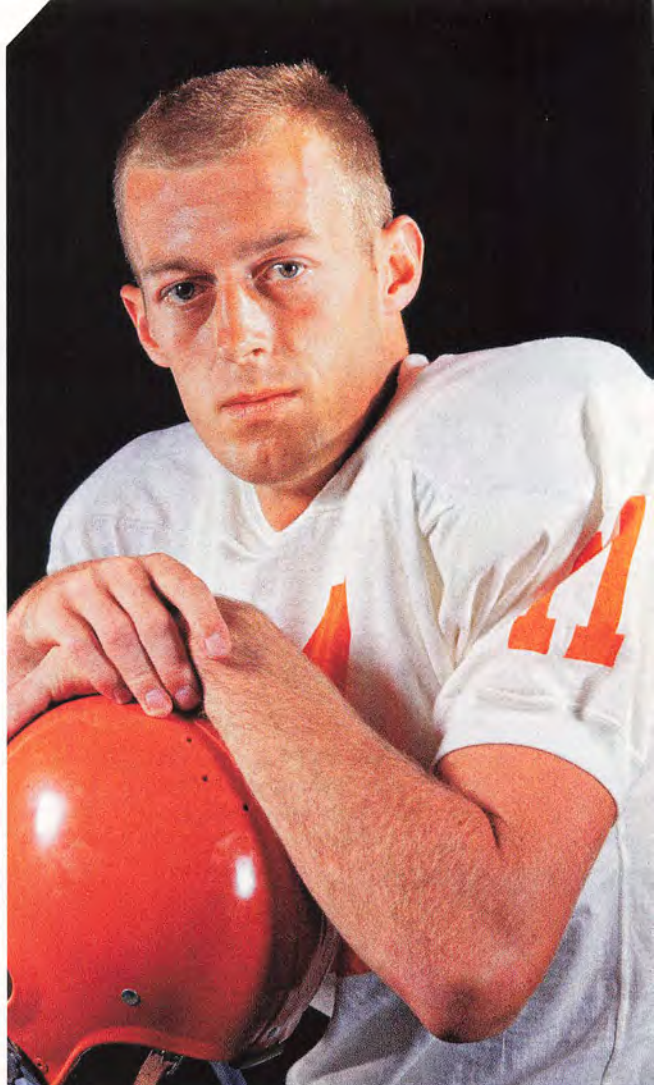
Head-scratcher: Cal's Roy Riegels ponders how he could have nabbed a Georgia Tech fumble and returned it *toward his own goal*. Riegels was brought down at the one, but a safety ensued. Cal lost the Rose Bowl 8-7; Riegels forever became Wrong Way.





## 1962 BEAVER BEAUTY

As a quarterback Terry Baker led Oregon State in rushing and passing in 1962—and was rewarded by being named the first Heisman Trophy winner from the West. For good measure, that spring he played point guard on the Beavers' basketball team, which reached the Final Four.



## 1994 WILDCAT STRIKER

All-America in 1994 and '95, Arizona's holler-guy defensive end Tedy Bruschi was the backbone of Wildcats teams that finished in the top 10 nationally in total defense in both those seasons. A quarterback scourge in Tucson, Bruschi set the school's career sacks record with 55.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: AP; PESHIN; KEVIN MAZUR/IMMEDIATE.COM





## 1902 ROSE BOWL 1.0

The first bowl game ever got Pacific Coast teams off to an inauspicious start when Stanford was smashed by Michigan 49-0 in the Rose Bowl. A crowd of 8,500 (plus horses) in Pasadena saw the Wolverines' Neil Snow romp for five touchdowns.

## 1940 RUNNING BEAR

Before Jackie Robinson integrated organized baseball, he was an artful dodger for UCLA's Bruins, in 1939 averaging a staggering 12.2 yards per carry and leading the nation's punt returners in '39 (20.0-yard average) and '40 (21.0).



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: JOHN BIEVER; BETTMANN/CORBIS; BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY





1998

BRIGHT LEAF

Fourth nationally in passing and third in the Heisman voting, rifled-armed Ryan Leaf led Washington State to a 10-2-0 record and a No. 8 ranking in 1997. Though the Cougars lost 21-16 to No. 1 Michigan in the Rose Bowl, Leaf threw for 331 yards.





# 1970

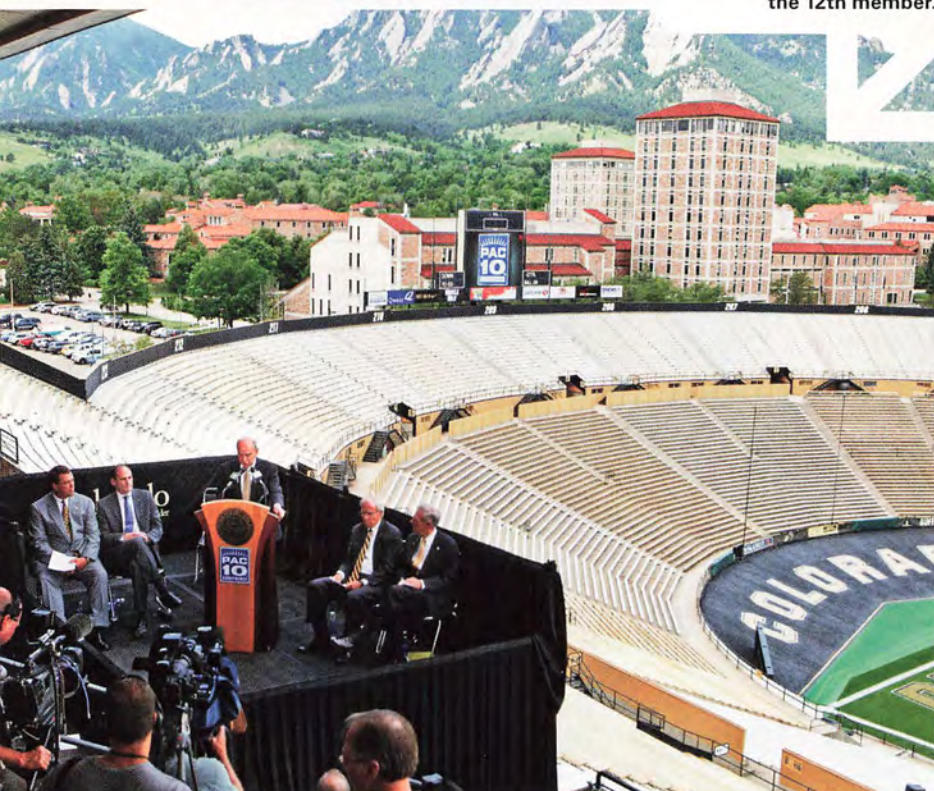
## JIM DANDY

The first player of Mexican-American descent to win the Heisman, Stanford's Jim Plunkett raised the aerial-attack bar, throwing for 2,715 yards (and breaking his own conference record). As a capper he led the Indians to a come-from-behind 27-17 Rose Bowl win over previously unbeaten Ohio State.

# 2010

## A DOZEN TO GO

Framed by Folsom Field and majestic environs, Colorado chancellor Philip P. DiStefano announces to an assemblage, including Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott (second from left on podium), that Colorado will join the conference in 2011. A week later Utah became the 12th member.



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: KIM KILSH/REUTERS; ED ANDRIEWS/AP; BETTMANN/CORBIS





Arizona State quarterback Jake (the Snake) Plummer's panache led the Sun Devils to an 11-0-0 regular-season mark and placed him third in the Heisman voting in 1996. The Snake's 11-yard TD slither in the Rose Bowl had ASU thinking national title before Ohio State rallied for a 20-17 win.

1997  
SNAKE CHARMER







## 2011 STEAMING DUCK

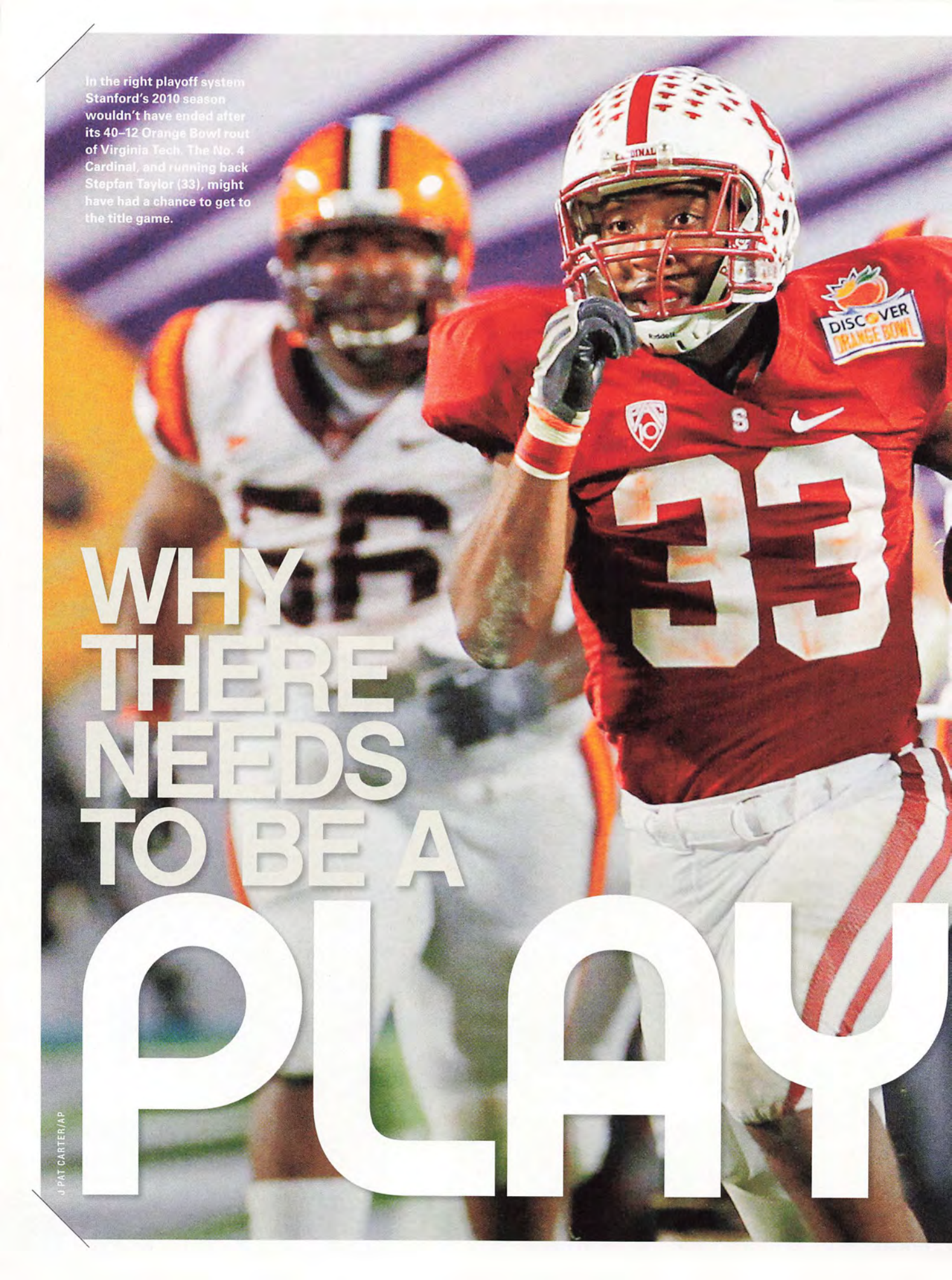
Streaking for a fourth-quarter touchdown, Oregon's LaMichael James fell short of his ultimate goal when his Ducks lost 22-19 to Auburn in the BCS championship game. Operating in coach Chip Kelly's high-powered attack, the juking James led the nation in rushing (144.3 yards per game) and scoring (24 touchdowns) in 2010, and barrels into '11 at full blast as a leading candidate for the Heisman.









A full-page photograph of Stanford Cardinal running back Stepan Taylor (number 33) in action. He is wearing a red Stanford jersey with white numbers, white pants with red stripes, and a white helmet with red facemask. He is running with the ball, looking forward. In the background, a Virginia Tech player in an orange and white uniform is visible. The scene is set in a stadium with purple and orange lights.

In the right playoff system  
Stanford's 2010 season  
wouldn't have ended after  
its 40-12 Orange Bowl rout  
of Virginia Tech. The No. 4  
Cardinal, and running back  
Stepan Taylor (33), might  
have had a chance to get to  
the title game.

# WHY THERE NEEDS TO BE A PLAY





# OFF

The unsatisfying (and deeply troubled) BCS system is a boon to few, while a 16-team elimination bracket could lift *all* of college football—all season long

BY AUSTIN MURPHY



HISTORY MAY REMEMBER SHAMED CONGRESSMAN Anthony Weiner as having had a worse 2011 than the Bowl Championship Series. But not by much. ¶ BCS executive director Bill Hancock began the year in his familiar defensive crouch, explaining why his organization had to revise its final standings for 2010 (a miscalculation in the Colley Matrix that lifted Boise State from No. 11 to No. 10, swapping places with LSU) and why Mark Cuban's plan to fund a college football playoff would never fly. ¶ In late March, Hancock transitioned from crouch to swift backpedal, eager to put distance between his organization and one of its former BFFs, Fiesta Bowl president and CEO John Junker. This became necessary when an in-house investigation revealed that Junker had run the Fiesta Bowl like some canary-blazered Nero, apparently using



BCS boss Hancock (above right) stands by the system although it has been plagued by inappropriate financial dealings—not least by the Fiesta Bowl, which drew a \$1 million fine. On the field Auburn was a worthy winner.

its money to lavish gifts on politicians, cronies, favored employees and, first and foremost, himself.

"They know that if they want to do business with us, they need to follow the letter of the law," Hancock said. "We just will not be associated with this kind of behavior."

Yet the Fiesta Bowl was not alone. According to documents requested and secured by the gadflies at Playoff PAC, officials at the Orange and Sugar bowls had routinely abused the bowls' status as tax-exempt charities. They just weren't quite as brazen about it as Junker.

To demonstrate just how seriously it took the Fiesta Bowl's misdeeds, the BCS fined it \$1 million. Then, just before the NCAA Postseason Bowl Licensing Subcommittee met with Fiesta officials to determine whether it should keep its NCAA license, Playoff PAC revealed that nine members of the subcommittee had previously participated in the bowl's "Fiesta Frolic," a three-day golf junket with some business thrown in. As Playoff PAC cofounder Bryson Morgan put it, the Fiesta Bowl was judged "by a jury of [its] former freeloaders." In a stunning turn of events (not), the subcommittee forgave the bowl and renewed



FROM LEFT: ROBERT BECK; PETER READ MILLER; JOHN BIEVER

the Fiesta's license (though it did impose a one-year probation).

In April, a week after 21 high-profile economists and antitrust experts sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice urging an investigation of Hancock's outfit for anticompetitive practices, news broke that Utah attorney general Mark Shurtleff intended to bring an antitrust lawsuit against the BCS. And in May the Department of Justice reached out to the BCS, requesting a





the status quo? Mainly the slender minority benefiting from it: those running the bowls and the commissioners, presidents and athletic directors of the power conferences that the system serves. But the BCS is losing support among the rank and file of college administrators disillusioned by the seamy Fiesta Bowl revelations and desperate to stop their athletic departments from hemorrhaging red ink. One way to do that is to stop handing over more than half the profits from their most lucrative product—the football postseason—to the bowls. And one way to do *that* is to put a playoff in place.

SO WHAT MIGHT A COLLEGE FOOTBALL playoff system look like? There have been numerous suggestions, but I'm partial

WHO, EXACTLY, IS  
IN FAVOR OF THE  
STATUS QUO?  
THE **SLENDER  
MINORITY THAT  
BENEFITS FROM  
IT, SUCH AS THE  
FOLKS WHO RUN  
THE BOWLS.**

to the 16-team-playoff plan put forward by the authors of the book and website *Death to the BCS*. Berths would go to the champions of all 11 conferences—yes, even the Sun Belt—plus five deserving at-large teams to be selected by a small committee of college football experts. The best teams would earn the highest seeds and play at home for the first three rounds. The title game would take place at a neutral site.

Playing the games on campus would ensure the inclusion of what is special about college football—the singular game-

day environments and secular cathedrals that are its stadiums. It would eliminate one of the more embarrassing aspects of many BCS bowls: the tens of thousands of fans who come disguised as empty seats.

With a 16-team postseason beckoning, late-season battles for a conference title and the jockeying for those precious at-large bids would inject enormous significance, inter-

voluntary background briefing on how it operates. Hancock agreed, and a meeting was set for late June.

How all this unfolds could shape the course of college football. Not right away. Not this season: The current BCS system is locked in through 2014. After that, however, things get murky, and—for the vast majority of college football fans who yearn for a postseason playoff—encouraging. Who, exactly, is in favor of



est and drama into games that under the current system have zero impact on the national title. SEC fans who could otherwise care less about the Mountain West might wonder whom their team would face in the first round and suddenly find themselves rabidly interested in the outcome of, say, Air Force-BYU. Thus would a playoff *enhance* the value of the regular season—dramatically—rather than diminish it, as BCS acolytes would have you believe.

TCU finished last season undefeated and ranked third in the country, a national-championship-caliber team denied the chance to play for the national championship. How might the Horned Frogs have fared in a playoff? After eviscerating 14th-seed UConn in the first round, then flummoxing Terrelle Pryor and No. 6 Ohio State in the second, TCU might've found itself Oregon-bound for a semifinal tilt with the second-ranked Ducks: defensive guru Gary Patterson versus offensive genius Chip Kelly. Who knows if TCU would have won that game or beaten Cam Newton and



Last year TCU defeated Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl (right) to close a 13-0 season in which it never had a chance at the national title. Boise State (below in white against Nevada) has often felt overlooked by the BCS.



Auburn in the finale? With a playoff, we'd have found out.

Tantalizing scenarios abound. Instead of Stanford's season ending with an Orange Bowl beatdown of Virginia Tech, we might have been treated to an eventual showdown between Andrew Luck and Newton. At 11-1 since-disgraced Ohio State would have had a shot, as would an excellent two-loss LSU team. Oklahoma's Big 12 championship win over Nebraska would not have set up a dreary Fiesta matchup with Connecticut but rather a spot at the dance. The point is not just that a playoff system would match good teams—bowls can do that—but also that it would make each game an edge-of-the-seater, an elimination game with the season at stake.

EVEN IF THE BCS IS FOUND GUILTY OF ANTICOMPETITIVE practices, say true believers, the Justice Department cannot force us to adopt a playoff. What could happen instead, they threaten, is a return to the days of 1991, when (most) teams were free to make independent deals with bowls. Dan Wetzel, a coauthor of *Death to the BCS*, refers to the possibility of the BCS's "take my ball and go home" scenario. "It's like a five-year-old who says he's



FROM LEFT: TED S. WARREN/AP; PETER READ MILLER (2)

going to run away from home," says Wetzel. "Fine. Call me from the driveway." Of course, it would pain the presidents of BCS schools to surrender control of the fortunes earned by college football's postseason—as they would have to do if a playoff were implemented. (Indeed, that's the single, overriding reason we don't have a playoff this instant.) But would they really turn back the clock to '91? Would they really choose retro-anarchy that pays less





ning the playoff would be saying to teams, in effect, 1) You must play in this tournament; and 2) You can't play in another bowl. One prominent antitrust attorney describes that argument as "ridiculous." To ensure legality the tournament director would merely need to offer teams an out along these lines: We're having a playoff. You're invited. If you would rather play in the Humanitarian Bowl, please let us know as soon as possible.

If a playoff would be illegal for NCAA football, why isn't it illegal for the other NCAA sports that determine their champion with a playoff?

"I'm not an attorney," Hancock remarked, in response to Shurtleff's threatened suit. "But I know antitrust laws challenge entities that limit access,

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and the BCS provides access in spades."

That will come as news to the 50 teams in the five conferences that make up college football's peasantry—the so-called nonautomatic qualifying conferences. For all but two or three of the non-AQ teams, the reality is this: They have no shot at a national title. Even if Nevada had gone undefeated last season (the Wolf Pack lost only to Hawaii), there's no way it would've leapfrogged any number of one-loss teams from the power conferences. "They didn't start the season ranked high enough, and

they're from a non-AQ conference," says Alan Fishel, an antitrust attorney with the law firm Arent Fox, which has been retained by the Mountain West Conference because of its desire to reform the BCS. "They were eliminated before the season began."

That reality undercuts a primary BCS talking point—the one assuring us that in a world without a playoff, "every game counts" in the regular season. Not only does every game *not* count, Fishel

over a playoff system that pays them much, much more? Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany, implacable playoff foe though he may be, estimated before Congress in 2005 that a playoff could earn three or four times the money of the system then in place. That added money could be distributed among the FBS conferences.

Another objection raised by the BCS: A playoff could be *illegal* because it gives teams *no choice* in the matter. Whoever was run-



points out, for the vast majority of non-AQ schools under the current system “no game has ever counted”—at least in terms of its bearing on a team’s hopes for winning it all.

Fishel has compiled a list, 22 BCS Tall Tales, a collection of alleged myths he says the organization has long perpetrated on the general public. Number 3 is “Every game counts.”

Tall Tale number 4: “Under the BCS, the entire regular season is a playoff.” In fact, Fishel writes, “if the regular season was truly a playoff, no undefeated team would ever be denied a national championship, yet this happens with regularity under the BCS.”

Number 5: “A playoff would destroy the regular season.” Actually, Fishel rebuts, “a playoff would greatly enhance the regular season”—considering that, as described earlier, hundreds more games would have national-championship implications.

Number 7 warns that a playoff would spell the doom of the bowl system. That’s speculation, not fact. The bowls will survive, albeit in the shadow of the playoff. The major ones would



Connecticut lost millions in unsold tickets when it went to the Fiesta Bowl last January (right), whereas postseasons in hoops (which the Huskies won this year) and other sports offer more rewards.

no longer have their pick of the elite teams, and the minor ones would have more trouble finding 6–6 squads. The bowls won’t go away. They may even provide some entertaining games. Hancock has talked about how bowls provide players “a multiday experience, usually in a different culture,” such as when Tulsa players visited the USS *Arizona* Memorial while the team was in Honolulu for the Hawaii Bowl. That can still be true. Exposed, at last, to free-market forces, the bowls would simply be demoted to the status of the NIT.

“GOODNESS GRACIOUS,” HANCOCK PROCLAIMED, ABOUT two months before his date with the Department of Justice, “with national and state budgets being what they are, it seems like a waste of taxpayers’ money to have the government looking into how college football games are played.”

Of course if Hancock were genuinely concerned about wasting taxpayer money, he would repent his involvement with the BCS and start advocating for a playoff. Of the 120 athletic departments that play FBS football, 106 lost money in 2009, according to an NCAA report. All over the country schools are



FROM LEFT: NATHAN HARRIS/AP; JOHN W. McDONOUGH; MATT KATZ/AN/AP PRESSWIRE

cutting entire sports programs while turning to student fees, academic funds and taxpayer support to balance the books of athletic departments. Meanwhile the presidents are missing out on hundreds of millions of dollars by outsourcing postseason football. Bowl organizers have taken them to the cleaners by such methods as the now infamous “ticket commitment.” A school playing in a bowl is required to purchase a set number





wavering in their support of the BCS. At the request of Oliver Luck, West Virginia's athletic director, the Big East's annual spring meetings included what Luck hoped would be "a legitimate and intellectually honest discussion about bowl finances." Luck has also called on the NCAA to look at the issue and has decried what he perceived as "a knee-jerk reaction to defend the system without engaging in a reasonable dialogue."

Wetzel, also a Yahoo! columnist, has written of "exhaustion" among commissioners and administrators who are weary of advocating for a system they no longer believe in. If they're sick of it now, imagine how they'll feel should a Department of Justice investigation kick in and

## PLAYING GAMES ON CAMPUS WOULD CAPTURE WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT COLLEGE FOOTBALL—ITS GAME-DAY ENVIRONMENTS AND STADIUMS.

the discovery process start. Imagine if they have to deliver reams of documents they would just as soon never saw the light of day.

It only gets uglier from here on out, and if the presidents at whose pleasure Hancock serves decide to cut their losses, the result could be a compromise: a plus-one. That is, two finalists for a national title game would emerge from the traditional bowl season—regardless of conference. That would fall far short of what playoff advocates are asking for. And cash-

of tickets. When the university is unable to resell those (often wildly overpriced) tickets, it takes a bath. Forced to purchase \$3,349,835 worth of tickets, Connecticut lost \$2,673,587 at last January's Fiesta Bowl on admission sales alone. (And yes, Mr. Hancock, that was taxpayer money.)

For a long time university presidents were credulous consumers of the BCS's so-called tall tales. Now many are

strapped schools would still be handing over more than 50% of their profits to the bowl bandits. But it would be a start.

Decades hence sports historians may look back on this as the year the BCS lost its grip on the postseason. For Hancock & Co. these are turbulent, troubling times. For the majority of college football fans, it may turn out that 2011 was a very good year. □



## TALK ABOUT A TOUGH CALL

An SI senior writer sifts through a wealth of West Coast options and makes his case for the Pac-12's greatest quarterback of all time **BY PHIL TAYLOR**

IT'S A PERFECT AFTERNOON, WARM BUT NOT TOO WARM. THE OUTDOORS ARE calling, so you grab your worn football and head out with your buddy or your brother, your dad or your kid. You windmill your throwing arm to get loose, and then you wave to him to go deep, fling the football and watch it soar against blue sky.

Haven't we all done that? Maybe that's why the Pac-12 seems to have attracted more elite quarterbacks than any other conference. It's a thrower's paradise. Granted, not every day is filled with sunlight and gentle breezes—just ask Oregon and Washington residents—but generally speaking, there is no better part of the country for guys who like to sling it down the field.

Alas, picking the single greatest of the Pac-12's long list of standout signal-callers is even harder than lifting your arm the day after one of those impromptu passing sessions. Almost every school in the conference has at least one who deserves a place in the discussion. (Sorry, Arizona fans.) But someone has to be named No. 1.

How do you define greatness? If it's membership in the College Football Hall of Fame, you might lean toward Stanford's Jim Plunkett or John Elway, or perhaps Norm Van Brocklin of Oregon or Cal's Joe Kapp. If it's leading a team to a major victory, you might again vote for Plunkett, who carried the underdog Cardinal past Ohio State in the 1971 Rose Bowl, or USC's Matt Leinart, who led the Trojans to the 2004 national title (later vacated).

If you're more of a numbers cruncher, Plunkett still might appeal to you. He set the conference record for single-season passing yardage as a sophomore, then again as a junior and a senior. His career 7,887 yards of total offense was a national record that stood for 15 years. Or perhaps you're more impressed by the QBs who have put up huge stats in today's pass-happy era, like the Ducks' Joey Harrington, who threw for 6,911 yards and 59 touchdowns over three seasons, or Leinart, who completed 64.8% of his passes for 99 TDs with only 23 interceptions in three seasons, all as a starter.

Are awards and honors important? If so, Plunkett won the Heisman Trophy in 1970 and was the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft, as was fellow Heisman winner Carson Palmer of USC. Oregon State's underrated Terry Baker also won the Heisman and was named SI's Sportsman of the Year in 1962.

NFL success shouldn't be a major factor, but extra points go to UCLA's Troy Aikman, who won three Super Bowls, and Plunkett and Elway, who each won a pair. They're all enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, along with Washington's Warren Moon and Dan Fouts of Oregon.



**INSPIRING WINS? A HEISMAN TROPHY? GAUDY STATISTICS? A PLAQUE IN THE HALL OF FAME? THE NO. 1 QB SHOULD HAVE THEM ALL**

Plunkett's achievements stand the test of time.

Only one name has appeared in every category so far. Though he never won a national championship, Plunkett elevated his nonpowerhouse program. That's something that most of the other contenders couldn't do. In fact, Stanford's 20-23-1 record during Elway's otherwise stellar career is the only blemish that keeps him from edging Jim Plunkett as the best Pac-12 quarterback of all time.

But maybe you think Elway was the best anyway, or someone I haven't even mentioned, such as Arizona State's Jake Plummer or Washington State's Drew Bledsoe, who were conference players of the year. There are so many worthy candidates that debate is inevitable. Don't get too upset if you don't agree with my pick. If you're in Pac-12 country, it's probably a nice day. Go outside and throw the football around. It's guaranteed to make you feel better. □





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